

The McLish Avenue Messenger

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

March 21, 2010

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



This New Testament passage quotes an Old Testament passage. Where is the Old Testament passage found?

“For David says concerning Him: Jesus answered them, “Is it not written in your law, ‘I said, “You are gods”?’”

John 10:34 (NKJV)

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

Who am I?

Who am I? I was born in 1725, and I died 1807. The only Godly influence in my life, as far back as I can remember, was my mother, whom I had for only seven years. When she left my life through death, I was virtually an orphan.

My father remarried, sent me to a strict military school, where the severity of discipline almost broke my back. I couldn't stand it any longer, and I left in rebellion at the age of ten. One year later, deciding that I would never enter formal education again, I became a seaman apprentice, hoping somehow to step into my father's trade and learn at least the ability to skillfully navigate a ship. By and by, through a process of time, I slowly gave myself over to the devil. I determined that I would sin to my fill without restraint, now that the righteous lamp of my life had gone out. I did that until my days in the military service, where again discipline worked hard against me, but I further rebelled. My spirit would not break, and I became increasingly more and more a rebel. Because of a number of things that I disagreed with in the military, I finally deserted, only to be captured like a common criminal and beaten publicly several times.

After enduring the punishment, I again fled. I entertained thoughts of suicide on my way to Africa, deciding that would be the place I could get farthest from anyone that knew me. And again I made a pact with the devil to live for him.

Somehow, through a process of the events, I got in touch with a Portuguese slave trader, and I lived in his home. He was married to a black wife, who was brimming with hostility and took a lot of it out on me. She beat me, and I ate like a dog on the floor of the home. If I refused to do that, she would whip me with a lash. I fled penniless, owning only the clothes on my back, to the shoreline of Africa where I

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Who

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built a fire, hoping to attract a ship that was passing by. The skipper thought that I had gold or slaves or ivory to sell and was surprised because I was a skilled navigator. It was there that I lived for a long period of time. It was a slave ship. It was not uncommon for as many as six hundred blacks from Africa to be in the hold of the ship, down below, being taken to America.

I went through all sorts of narrow escapes with death only a hairbreadth away on a number of occasions. One time I opened some crates of rum and got everybody on the crew drunk. The skipper, incensed with my actions, beat me, threw me down below, and I lived on stale bread and sour vegetables for an unendurable amount of time. He brought me above to beat me again, and I fell overboard. Because I couldn't swim, he harpooned me to get me back on the ship. And I lived with a scar in my side, big enough for me to put my fist into, until the day of my death. On board, I was in flamed with fever. I was enraged with the humiliation. A storm broke out, and I wound up again in the hold of the ship, down among the pumps. To keep the ship afloat, I worked along as a servant of the slaves. There, bruised and confused, bleeding, diseased, I was the epitome of the degenerate man. I remembered the words of my mother. I cried out to God, the only

way I knew, calling upon His grace and His mercy to deliver me, and upon His Son to save me. The only glimmer of light I could find was in a crack in the ship in the floor above me, and I looked up to it and screamed for help. God heard me. Thirty-one years passed, I married a childhood sweetheart. I entered the ministry. In every place that I served, rooms had to be added to the building to handle the crowds that came to hear the Gospel that was presented and the story of God's grace in my life.

My tombstone above my head reads, "Born 1725, died 1807. A clerk, once an infidel and libertine, a servant of slaves in Africa, was by the rich mercy of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, preserved, restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the Faith he once long labored to destroy." I decided before my death to put my life's story in verse. And that verse has become a hymn. My name? John Newton. The hymn? Amazing Grace.



Mark your calendars

We will have a "Hometown Preachers" gospel meeting **April 18-21**. Floyd Johnson, Cole Tidwell, Larry Jones, Kevin Pendergrass, James Gravelle and Ben Bailey will be delivering the lessons.

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
Lovell & Mary Hughes
Lonnie Harris
Rick & Suzanne Tidwell
Tom Matlock
Sharlene Wallis & Rebecca



Remember Our Sick

Hattie Williams is scheduled to get a pacemaker. Laci Sandefur's grandfather, Dale Hougland, has cancer and is going to Houston for treatments. Please continue to remember: Jean Cary • Dora Hector • Ben Tomlinson • Esther Godwin • Brenda Anderson • Olga Sue Stinson • Gracie Smith • Jean Parker • Jamie Feroli • Mary Ann Ashley • Ruth Parker's great-grandson Emory Raney • Bessie Childress • Jean Cary's nephew, Kent Barker • Ruth Minyard • Mildred Pennington's sister, Geneva Long and her sister-in-law Billie Gilliam • Patti Culpepper • Betty Higgins • Jerry & Glenda Vinson • Murray Goforth • Deborah Thomas' mother • Pat Morrison, Olga Sue Stinson's sister • Dorthea Phillips • Pat Ballard's mother • Madeline Minyard • and those shut in/nursing home members.

Directory updates Please update the following in your directory. **Virgie Birchfield's** address is Western Hills Senior Care Center, 402 Pawnee Street, Ardmore; phone 224-0088. **Patti Culpepper** is at Woodview Home and her address is Room #1, 1630 3rd Ave NE, Ardmore; phone 226-5454.



Response Last Sunday **Marvin Willis** responded to the invitation. He asked for forgiveness from any that he has offended in the past and for any offense he has brought to the church.

Our sympathy We want to extend our sympathy to the family and friends of **Edna Linderman** who passed away last week. Services will be at 2 pm Monday at Harvey Douglas. Graveside will follow at Oakland Cemetery in Madill.



Tax forms Please check with Doneta to pick up a tax form.

Directories If you haven't already picked up your new directory, today is the day to do so. The directories are sorted alphabetically with a name label on the inside front cover. Please be sure to mark off your name from the list that is associated with the box your directory is in.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

March

- 20 Laci Sandefur
- 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
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

May

- 2 Kaitlin Aldridge
- 6 Sean Bugbee
- 7 Todd Hicks
- 8 Arlene Castleman

Children's homes Hope Harbor will be here in May and is requesting chopped green chilies, green chili enchilada sauce, breakfast muffin mix, sliced black olives, corn muffin mix, wild rice mixes, pecans, bbq sauce, fat-free sweetened condensed milk, canola oil, sweetened breakfast cereal, individually packaged snack items (but no sandwich style crackers please), dish towels, dryer sheets, liquid laundry soap, tall kitchen trash bags, plastic or styrofoam divided plates, rectangle foam plates and paper plates. **Westview** will be back in July and is requesting: 100% juice, canned fruit, sweetened cereal, baked beans, Tang/Kool-aid, olive and vegetable oils, sliced jalapenos, evaporated milk, Eagle Brand milk, tabasco/Louisiana hot sauces, Clorox wipes, liquid Cascade, foil, toilet paper and paper towels.



Over 39ers The over 39ers will meet Thursday, April 15th at 6:00 pm here at the building. JW Hobbs will furnish hot dogs and buns. Please bring sides, desserts and drinks.

Need a ride to services? If you need the van to pick you up for services, please see **Steve Mann, Scott Saner**, or one of the elders.

Those to Serve Today

Announcements.....	James Gravelle
Lord's Table.....	Ron Jones Jerry Beavers Kenneth Parker
	Todd Hicks Bobby Wallace Doug Aldridge
Song Leader.....	David Johnson PM Opening Prayer..... Chock Aldridge
AM Opening Prayer.....	Vernon Castleman PM Closing Prayer..... Ronnie Byrd
AM Scripture.....	Colin Saner PM Lord's Supper..... Jerry Beavers
AM Closing Prayer.....	John Johnson
Greeters Mar 21 & 24.....	Todd & Shelly Hicks, Harold & Martha Dillard

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
504-2829

Ron Jones
223-7268

Steve Mann
223-7246

Scott Saner
465-5785

Jerry Vinson
223-3865



March 24

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

March 31

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



April 4

12 noon Fellowship Meal

April 7

10:00 am Ladies' Bible class
7:00 pm FA Shellenberger gives devotional



Broadcast Schedule

3/28/10 2 Peter Chapters 2 & 3
False Teachers Do Exist

Kevin's schedule

Today

Seneca, MO

Psalm 82:6

Scripture from front page: