

AM: Aaron Cozort:
Notes:

PM: Aaron Cozort:
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Collierville

church of CHRIST

The Collierville Courier

Vol. 6, No. 41, October 13, 2019

Sunday:

9:30 AM - Bible Study
10:30 AM - AM Worship
1:30 PM - PM Worship

Wednesday:

7:00 PM - Bible Study



Collierville Church of Christ
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**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and
the love of God, and the communion of
the Holy Ghost, be with you all. Amen.
2 Corinthians 13:14**

God's Bundle and Ours

By: Jim McGuigan, *Where The Spirit of the Lord Is...* (Howard Publishing, 1999)

Christians try, in the grace and power of the Spirit, to let love and their love for God be the motivating center of their lives. But, of course, it doesn't begin with them; it begins with God, for we love him because he first loved us. So we claim that the love of God for humanity is the soil out of which all that is generous and kind and strong and good takes its rise.

Critics waste no time jeering at such a faith and point to the tragedies of life: "Are you people blind? Don't you see what's going on in the world? How can you say God loves humanity when you can see, or should be able to see, the absurdity of it all. In spite of the chaos, you trot off to your little praise gatherings and mouth the same silly songs, blissfully unaware that you're completely out of touch with reality."

I don't think so! I don't think the Church needs lectures on the reality of pain and loss. Do they think Christians are exempt from loss? Have we not buried our own? Watched our own die in agony? Seen our own marriages fall apart and our families endure purgatory? Christians bear loneliness and heartache, weep in the night and watch helplessly while their business, built on honest toil over many years, goes under and they are left wondering.

And maybe the critics need to know that there's a poignancy attached to the Christian's loss that they can't appreciate. In some ways, it would be easier to bear loss if: like the critic, we could disbelieve. Only a severely tested believer knows that saying, "God loves you" doesn't always solve everything. Sometimes, it makes it worse, because if he loves us, then why this or why that? Surely, if he loved us, he would have prevented this or that.

No, I don't think we need lectures about realism or hard questions. Believers throughout the centuries, as the biblical record shows, have agonized and questioned. If there were no Jewish people, no Hebrew scriptures, no New Covenant church or scriptures, it would be easier to disbelieve. If there were no Jesus Christ, that would settle the matter. Yes, if there were no Jesus Christ, we'd take our tragedy and live and die in misery without questions.

But the Spirit has poured the love of God into our hearts, and we're persuaded that behind all the chaos and pain, there is a heart that works for the good of us all, critics included. We come to God with our bundle of tragedy, our leukemic child or crippled young husband, and lay it before him, lip trembling, looking for an answer- "What am I to make of this?" Or, if not for answers, at least some kind of assurance, *something* to help us make it through the awful days. Without even a hint of displeasure or disappointment, and without a word of explanation, God lays his own bundle of tragedy beside ours-our loved one and his loved one, our heartache and his, lying there side by side. And for all our heartache, there's something in that silent act of God that comforts our hearts and gives us courage. So, without an explanation, but strengthened, we thank him and get back to the business of glorious living.

Knowing that this Lord works triumph and glory in and through tragedy, as he did with his own, we have *heart* to believe what our intellect has the *grounds* for believing: that he can and is doing wonderful things with our sore trouble.

So we make it our aim to proclaim the love of God for the whole world, fully aware of the tragic stories that poor, brokenhearted people are telling. But with a sympathy born of assurance rather than despair, we lay our own stories down beside theirs and then God's story down beside ours and speak wisely and hopefully about the love of God for us all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Michael Dale will begin giving us 5 minute Sunday afternoon devos today immediately after second service.

Nancy Horsman's new address is: 4550 ST. Andreos Dr., Grand Prairie, TX 75052

PCH PANTRY ITEM for October is Velveeta Cheese. Check out the new October Newsletter on the board.

LADIES WEEKLY BIBLE STUDY will meet Thursday at 10:00 in the fellowship hall.

Collierville Cares will not meet this week.

MISSIONARY TRIP: Louis and Martha Rushmore are on their fall missionary trip to Myanmar (Burma) and India. They will be returning Oct 25. Please keep them in your prayers.

UPCOMING EVENTS: See the bulletin board flyers for all upcoming events.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING & PT/SS MEETING – Today at 2:30.

FOREST HILL COC – 4TH Annual World Evangelism Seminar - "Plant and Water, God Will Give The Increase"- Oct 18 and 19.

Getwell COC- Spiritual Sword Lectureships – Oct. 20-23. See the bulletin board for a schedule and look for our own Gary Colley and Aaron Cozort on the list.

MSOP Ongoing Spiritual Training Fall Semester- Thursdays from Sept. 12 – Dec. 12.

LADIES: SOUTHAVEN COC- LADIES NIGHT OUT- FRIDAY, November 1. See flyer. Need head count by Oct 20th. Please sign up (on bulletin board) if you plan to go.

AREA-WIDE CONGREGATIONAL SINGING – Quail Ridge COC – Sat, Nov. 2.

SYMPATHY TO: The Dale and Kolinchek families. The Kolinchek Family (friends of the Dales) lost their daughter to cancer.

OUR SICK:

Ruby Bradd, Stage 4 Neuroblastoma - Cards can be mailed to 824 W. Main St., Clinton, IL

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE:

Homebound/Assisted Living

Deloris Jones
James Luna
Celeste Moore
Brenda Bruce

Those Battling Cancer

Natalie Temple
Leroy Fisher
Lynn Guillot
Tabby Jenkins
Wayne Vaughan
Mary Jo Todaro
Marvin Mann
Ruby Bradd

Physical Problems

Rudell & Dorothy Wilson, Tori Hinesley, Kay Fisher
Doug Mooring, Ron Flanagan, Machel Simpson,
Sandy Trammel, Janell Grizzard, Don Robertson,
Paul Fisher, Joey Burks, Kathi Flanagan, Taylor Kubula,
Amber Hinson, Paul Vaughan, Murry Springer,
Barbara Hodges

MISSIONARIES: Louis & Martha Rushmore - rushmore@gospelgazette.com

Charlie & Mary Dipalma- charmary1969@yahoo.com **Melbourne, Australia**

Marlon & Jacky Retana - marlon_retana@hotmail.com **Panama**

WORSHIP LEADERS

Song Leader:	AM Worship Michael Dale	PM Worship Michael Dale	Wednesday Night Song Leader: Eric Richardson
Opening Prayer:	J. Shaffar	Joe Cason	Devo: Aaron Cozort
Closing Prayer:	Eric Halverson	Tommy Laster	Closing Prayer: Michael Dale