

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST April 19, 2020



Written by
Neal Pollard

Life has dramatically changed for us on a daily basis. Whether it be liberties that have been restricted or routines that have been disrupted, we have experienced significant upheaval. Some of it has been dramatically better, as for many we have been given a slower pace that has produced much more time with family and projects done together that we will always treasure. There is vast potential for much better marriage and family habits to come from this experience, as well as a reshuffling of priorities on the other side of this quarantine.

Of course, for many this will be remembered as a season of trial. We are hearing of members of the church who have

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).

**VISITORS,
WELCOME!**

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

1:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes
for all ages & fellowship
for lunch every Sunday!

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ELDERS

Billy Bland

Seth Daniel

Jim Jackson

DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jerry Davis

Jeffrey Ferrell JoeOwen

Andy Ratliff Tim Wilkes, II

John Wofford

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

contracted and even died with this deadly virus. Church families around the nation have members who are part of the at least ten percent of those who have lost their jobs or been laid off. How many parents, grandparents, and other loved ones are in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, hospitals, and residences where we cannot have physical contact with them for their safety's sake? As devastating as anything, though, is the dreadful disruption to "church life" because we cannot assemble together for church services, fellowship activities, devotionals, seminars and workshops, and the like. There will be permanent, far-reaching impacts physically, economically, and socially, but what about spiritually?

Guard Against Social Disconnection

For the time being, we are more or less forced into social distancing. Hopefully, this can be modified soon and ultimately return to pre-virus levels. It will be important to return to the physical dimension of contact with each other provided uniquely through our assemblies. My prayer is that we will treasure fellowship like never before. We will zealously obey the command to consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds through our assemblies (Heb. 10:24-25), being "devoted to one another in brotherly love" and to "give preference to one another in honor" (Rom. 12:10) between our scheduled services (Acts 2:46). Don't let the devil use this to form a permanent social wedge between you and the church.

Guard Against Stress And Anxiety

There are no psychological studies to measure the effects of mass isolation and sheltering in place on a scale like this has caused. No doubt, the more functional and stable the home environment and the more emotional support available to a person, the better he or she will fare. How many cut off from their normal routines are also constantly feeding themselves a steady diet of

the news, which none can rightly classify as edifying? Conspiracy theories aside, there are the stressors like the ones mentioned above. Fears can eclipse faith and worry can lead to weakness. This trial is an excellent opportunity to build trust (Psa. 37:3-6), endurance (Jas. 1:3), righteousness (Heb. 12:11), hope (Job 13:15), and more.

Guard Against Spiritual Doldrums And Self-Absorption

This has tested our time management skills. Having more time on our hands does not automatically translate into “making the most of the opportunity” (Col. 4:5). Will we have done more binge-watching or Bible reading through this? Will we have tended more to self-care or finding ways to serve (phone calls, texts, emails, cards, etc., to spiritual family and others we might influence and encourage)? Will we have focused more on how this has impacted us or how we can impact others?

The good news is that, for all of us, this is a story whose last chapters have not been written. Each day is an opportunity for spiritual growth and improvement. None of us would have wished something like this to happen, but each of us chooses what we will make of it. Let’s remain vigilant. Certainly, Satan would like to take advantage of us (2 Cor. 2:11), and he could use our current circumstances to dislodge us from faithfulness. Yet, Scripture promises something that we can count on: “Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you” (Jas. 4:7-8a). May that be the end result for us all!

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Jan & Seth Daniel; Wiley Tuggle; Terry Davis; Sammy Williams; Inez Neyman; Clarence & Faye Edwards.

Far East Missions Fishers of Men NetCasters

Family & Friends

Several out of work; **Charles Savage**, Lara's dad, severe back pain, cannot get needed doctor appointments because of pandemic; **Dale Byrum**, missionary to Philippines, trying to get home to USA; **Richard Neal**, Clifton's neighbor, cancer treatments; **Crutcher Comer**, grandson of Ginger's friends; **Terry Cummings**, friend of Faye Edwards, at DiversaCare where Sherry resides; **Martha Williams**, Amanda Lyon's grandmother, dementia.

Birthdays

4/1 Joe Owen
4/20 Aubrey Ratliff
4/20 Jamie Cagle
4/27 Janice Dixon

Get Involved!

We Hope to be able to Meet Again VERY SOON

We will worship in our homes, and we will have some online opportunities for Bible study and worship aids, also.

Please take care of yourselves, and continue to pray that the effects of this virus will be reduced such that we can assemble again very soon!

**April 19: Zoom Meeting for Worship, 10:30
Link emailed & posted in FB group**

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, April 19

Morning

Prayer Before Class	
Announcements	Billy Bland
Song Leader	Jason Bayless
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jerry Davis
Assist	

Opening Prayer	Jeffrey Ferrell
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Billy Bland

Afternoon

Song Leader	P
Opening Prayer	O
Sermon	S
Lord's Supper	T
Closing Prayer	P

Wednesday, April 22

Song Leader	O
Prayer	N
Invitation	E
Prayer	D

TECH:
HALL: