

## I Saw Some Brethren at the Ballgame

On a frigid fall evening my family and I decided to go to the local high school football game. I knew there would be some familiar faces there, but didn't expect to see so many Christians who were dedicated to such an important cause.

At the football game I saw a sister who's poor physical condition hindered her from attending worship services! She was sitting next to a family who had brought some visitors that had unexpectedly "dropped in." Even though the temperature was extremely uncomfortable, not one person left before the game was over, including overtime, nor did any of them complain, but seemed to enjoy the extended period of play!

I also saw some of the player's parents, who had to make special arrangements with their boss in order to be present at every game, ON TIME! When I went to the concession stand I stood in line behind a brother who was embarrassed to attend worship because he had no money for the collection plate. Working in the concession stand were two Christians who had recently argued that the church should hire someone to do personal work because it was not right to ask someone to give up their spare time!

Most of the brethren there had memorized name and number of every player. When the marching band played the fight song they sang so loud they could have been heard clear across town. When the game ended, many got together to discuss the game and talk about next week's game with eager anticipation.

As I contemplated the things I had seen, I thought how unkind it would be to visit one of these brethren if he or she ever missed a game. I thought how offensive it would be to tell them that the team needed their support, financially and spiritually. However, I knew that would never be necessary, for these individuals displayed such devotion, dedication and determination that wind, rain, snow, cold or a team of strong horses could not keep them from supporting the team in person-every time!

I left the scene being overwhelmed with the dedication Christians can display when they really want to!

(The proceeding event was fiction, but the principles are often times true!)

# Teen News

Thank all of you for attending the devotional last Sunday night. The volleyball game was a blast, and I guess I should congratulate the girls on being ahead of the boys when we ran out of time. We all know, had we had more time the boys would have prevailed. Tonight's devotional will again be held in the Activity Building. Please bring your favorite finger food or snack. **BLAKE**

**With all the credit cards around these days, the only one who pays cash all the time is the tooth fairy.**

**Tackling life's challenges is like eating an orange. They're much easier to handle one section at a time.**

**The future is that time when you'll wish you'd done what you aren't doing now.**

### DOOR GREETERS

**Oct. 9, 2011**

**Frank & Patsy McClelland**

### COMMUNION PREPARATION

**Oct. 9, 2011**

**Mike & Renee Whitley**

# Gospel Worker

## Crockett Road Church of Christ

1717 Crockett Road; P.O. Box 288  
Palestine, Texas 75802  
903/723-6291

[www.crockettroadchurchofchrist.org](http://www.crockettroadchurchofchrist.org)

### MINISTERS

Dan D. Manuel  
*Pulpit Minister*  
Blake Baker  
*Youth Minister*  
Bernie Baur  
*Personal Evangelism*

### ELDERS

Dan D. Manuel  
Dale Sparks

### DEACONS

Henry Baker  
Sam Ellis  
Dwight Franklin  
Adam Harding  
Kyle Lock

### SECRETARY

Lorelee Reeder

### MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Brown Trail School of  
Preaching, *Bedford, TX*  
Jose Cuadras—*Mexico*  
*School of Preaching*  
Hershel Bearden  
*India Mission*  
Ken Upchurch  
*Tanzania Africa Work*  
Central TX Children's  
Home—*Buda, TX*  
Tipton Children's Home  
*Tipton, OK*  
Gospel Broadcast Network

### ASSEMBLY TIMES

Sun: 9:30 AM Class  
10:30 AM Worship  
6:00 PM Evening  
Wed: 7:00 PM

## “ARE YOU A PILLAR OR CATERPILLAR”

**Somebody once observed: "Church members are either pillars or caterpillars. Pillars hold up the church, caterpillars just crawl in and out." Christians ought to be doing more than crawling in and out. Conversion to Christ should make a difference in our lives. Not only in our lives, but also in the lives of others as we lose ourselves in service to Christ and our fellow human beings. Jesus didn't die on a cross because I'm okay and you're okay. He died because there were and are some things about us that need to change. As someone noted, "If your religion leaves you unchanged, you need to change your religion." Titus 3:8-9 describes two kinds of religion—one will lead you to change, the other will leave you unchanged. The verses say: "This is a faithful saying, and these things I want you to affirm constantly, that those who have believed in God should be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable to men. But avoid foolish disputes, genealogies, contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and useless." Note the two ways Paul rates religion: "good and profitable" or "unprofitable and useless." These are striking words. Paul is directing Titus to teach Christians on the first century island of Crete that they can be pillars or caterpillars in the church! They can help hold up the church as they stay busy doing and supporting good works, or they can get all bogged down and caught up in disputes and debates and foolish fusses and fights which are "unprofitable and useless." Some church members help hold up the church, some are content to crawl in and out, and a few seem bent on tearing and slowing her down. It should sober us to realize our religion can be "good and profitable" or "unprofitable and useless. Are you a pillar or a caterpillar? Three times in Titus 2:14-3:14 the apostle Paul emphasizes that Christians should stay busy working for the Lord. They should be "zealous for good works" (2:14); "be careful to maintain good works" (3:8); "learn to maintain good works" (3:14). Colin Powell once observed, "Freedom to be your best means nothing unless you're willing to do your best." Jesus Christ has given us the freedom to be our best.**



**GREAT FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON.**  
**Memorable Day for all in attendance**



*From Dan's desk:*

Our Fellowship Luncheon last Sunday was great. Thanks to Sandy Singleterry for coordinating and to the ladies and men who helped. They are: Ike and Joyce Weatherly, James Singleterry, Lois King, Jane Davis, Pam Boyette, Fred and Beth Freeman, and Martha Oliver. It was a wonderful day. Our Monday Night For the Master program resumed last Monday night with good attendance and good food and a lot that was accomplished. So many in the church here work tirelessly, giving of their time and energy to honor God and accomplish the work that He has given us to do. We are so grateful to each of you for what you do and what you mean to the Lord's Kingdom at this place. Our meeting in Groesbeck resulted in one responding to the invitation of Christ. It was good to be with the brethren there. Today we are in Tipton, Okla. The church here helps support the Children's Home there. We are thankful to be a part of this wonderful benevolent program. The care that is given by those at the home will result in young men and women becoming Christians and having an opportunity grow up with influences that are good and wholesome. I will be with the church there through Wednesday night. I will not be away again on Sunday morning until next Spring. My thanks to Bernie for preaching for me. He always does a great job. We taped segments of "GIVE ME THE BIBLE" television program last week. Continue to watch on NBC 56 KETK each Sun. at 7 am. DAN

**PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES**



**TO KEEP  
IN OUR PRAYERS**

**PLEASE REMEMBER THESE IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

JIM DAVIS had minor surgery this last week.  
SANDY SINGLETERRY'S sister Beverly Carr had open heart surgery this last week in Odessa.  
GARY COATES had a heart procedure in Tyler at Mother Francis Hospital this last Thursday.  
CONTINUE TO REMEMBER: Dennis Ellison, Gayle Hamilton, Jane Grumbles, Daphne Prince, Toni & David Degelia, Gary Oliver, Toby Williams, Gerald Wilcher., Liam Lowe.  
Servicemen: Jeffery Rose, Blaine Klein & Jason Mottern.

We are planning a church Fall Fest after services on Sunday afternoon Oct. 30th, in the activity building and parking lot. Mark your calendar.



**A SEAT IN THE LIFEBOAT**

A SEVERE POTATO famine in the nineteenth century motivated many Irish to come to the New World to find new opportunities.

One little boy did not have money for fare to board a ship to the New World secretly boarded as a stow-away. The ship eventually hit an iceberg and began to sink. Passengers filled lifeboats to escape to safety. At first the boy, who had been hiding in the hull of the ship, was not aware of what was going on. When he realized what was happening, he rushed up to the deck and saw the captain taking the last seat in the last lifeboat. In the highest tradition of the sea, the captain got out of the lifeboat and gave the boy his seat. As the lifeboat pulled away the captain said to the boy, "Never forget what's been done for you."

The boy became successful in the New World and was asked the secret of his motivation. He said, "Whenever I begin to doubt myself or let up from what I ought to be doing, I always remember a captain standing on a deck and saying, " Never forget what's been done for you."

You and I are much like that little boy. All of us have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and the "ship" onto which we have boarded is sinking, headed for destruction (Romans 3:23; 6:23). Noticing our plight, the "Captain" of the Universe—Jesus Christ, the Son of God—willingly and lovingly gave His life that we might be saved (1 Thessalonians 5:10). Because of His death on the cross, we can be saved from our sins when we place our trust in Him (Hebrews 11:6), repent of our sin (2 Corinthians 7:9-10), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38; cf. Mark 16:15-16; Acts 22:16; Romans 6:3-4; Galatians 3:27; 1 Peter 3:21).

The call from the cross of Calvary upon which Jesus died is, "Never forget what's been done for you." May each of us gratefully respond to that wonderful gift by submitting our lives to the One who died for us. — David Sargent

"And He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again."