



# The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ  
Vol. XXXV February 10, 2008

## Ray's Ramblings

Ray Pack

### Spam Versus The Word of God

How does the thought of making \$50,000 a year sound? What if you could earn this amount without leaving your

house? Would you like to further your education? Each day as I begin the day I open my email to find these promises as well as others. The advertisements are enticing to say the least. The internet is a vast ocean of free flowing ideas. Unfortunately, some folks abuse the internet and its accessibility to scam folks. They are known as SPAM, unsolicited and unwanted emails. Many times what is being promised just does not hold water. I guess something with the word net in it should not be expected to hold water. We can, however, draw some Biblical principles from this idea of spamming.

The children of Israel went after these worthless things. Consider the words of the prophet in Jeremiah 2:13, *"For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water."* God is telling us that His people left Him to follow after foreign gods. There is no profit in following the god of the delusional or the god of uselessness. We today, just as the children of Israel, need to go to the fountain of living water to find abundant life.

What kind of Spam are we facing today in the life of the church? What messages are bombarding us and causing us to chase after worthless things? Think if you will about the following things often heard concerning spiritual matters.

1. God Yes - Church No.
2. Baptism is not a necessity for salvation.
3. Once saved, always saved.
4. The Bible is out of date.
5. One church is as good as another.
6. We need political correctness in the church.
7. The church exists to meet your needs.

What I think of when I hear things like the statements listed above is that there is a quick, easy fix in religious matters. When the comparison is made to God's Word these things just do not hold water. Our challenge as God's children today is to go to His Word and test the things we hear. Let us not be guilty of the same two evils that the Israelites were guilty of. God is the source for all things eternal, and there is no shortcut to becoming a Christian and living the Christian life.

### Tract of the Week

This week's tract...

#### ***"The Amazing History of Instrumental Music"***

The tract of the week is actually a two-part tract. Part 1 was placed in the tract rack last week and Part 2 is available this week. Many of us wonder about the origin of instrumental music in the worship assembly. Many in our world have always thought that this was what God desired. These two tracts trace the history of the introduction of the instrument through the course of history in various religious bodies.



### FAMILY MATTERS

Flavil Yeakley, who is active in "Church Growth," wrote in the Christian Chronicle some time ago that churches of Christ in the Bible belt states were decreasing in numbers. The only state mentioned in the article that was growing was Texas, and it was only 2%.

This should cause us to ask, "Have we lost our zeal for evangelism?"

My personal observation of congregations in Arkansas is that we have many older members and each year as some pass on we are not reaching others to take their place.

We seem to reach very few that are not children whose parents are attending with us. Case in point, of the seven young people who were baptized in 2007, only two did not have family attending School Avenue (*the congregation where the writer works*).

We need to get back to teaching the lost the Gospel of Christ (Mark 16:15, 16). This will take more than just living a good life and fellowshiping one another. We must get out in our community and teach those who have "an ear to hear" (Revelation 2:11).

We must learn to "deny self," take up our cross and follow Jesus (Matthew 16:24). We read in 2 Timothy 4:1, 2: *"I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."*

Frank Curtis

### Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. - *Contented With Crumbs*  
Proverbs 20:13-14

P.M. - *O, Master Let Me Walk With Thee*  
1 Timothy 1:12-13

# WATCHING THE TONGUE

A man working in the produce department was asked by a lady if she could buy half a head of lettuce. He replied, "Half a head? Are you serious? God grows these in whole heads and that's how we sell them!"

"You mean," she persisted, "that after all the years I've shopped here, you won't sell me half a head of lettuce?"

"Look," he said, "if you like, I'll ask the manager."

She indicated that would be appreciated, so the young man marched to the front of the store. "You won't believe this, but there's some crazy lady back there who wants to know if she can buy half a head of lettuce."

He noticed the manager gesturing and turned around to see the lady standing behind him, obviously having followed him to the front of the store. "And this nice lady was wondering if she could buy the other half" he concluded.

Later in the day the manager cornered the young man and said, "That was the finest example of thinking on your feet I've ever seen! Where did you learn that?" "I grew up in Smithville, and if you know anything about Smithville, you know that it's known for its great hockey teams and its ugly women."

The manager's face flushed, and he interrupted, "My wife is from Smithville!" The young man without skipping a beat asked "And which hockey team did she play for?"

I do not know where I first read this illustration, but I do know the young man would not have had to think so quickly on his feet if he followed what God revealed. The illustration may be humorous, but our need to use our tongue properly is serious. Consider what God has revealed in Scripture regarding our tongues.

The Wise man through inspiration wrote "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles" (Proverbs 21:23).

James writes "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain... .. But the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (James 1:26; 3:8, see also 3:5-6).

The tongue is a little member, but it can get us in big trouble. May we all think seriously about the admonition "Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak and slow to wrath" (James 1:19).

John F. Board

# News and Notes

**ALYENNE BATES** was released from Hardin Memorial Monday and is now residing at Helmwood Healthcare Center, Room 213.

**BARBARA UNDERWOOD** will have surgery Thursday to remove a tumor on her arm. Cards may be sent to **HERB PENCE** at Harborside Health Center, 1381 Campbell Lane, Bowling Green, KY 42104.

## MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ON PRAYER LISTS

Betty Addington	J Martin
Neil Burden	Tom Morgan
Elonda Crafton	Herb Pence
W.C. Davis	Zola Pence
Dana Fox	Marie Rose
Howard Gardner	Terry Showers
Bernard Gillim	Grace Speer
Faye Guess	Wilma Stull
Kent Lane	Barbara Underwood
Diane Lewis	Lonnie Underwood
Jim Maples	Lawrence Wells

**Let us continue to remember the following military personnel in our prayers:** Dave Fulbright, Robert E. Wooten, Justin Gardner, Kelly Leverett, George Edwards, Joe Betterton, Myles Brothers, Dale Martin, Terry Turner, Cameron Ponder, Brett Fleming, Mike Chandler, Nathan Blair, Nathan McClain, Willie Mitchell

**Additional Prayer List:** Jan Allen, Weita Anderson, K.C. Avery, Christa Bradley, Grace Brown, Martha Brown, Sue Cantrell, Betty Davis, Evelyn Davis, Sydney Dover, Ellen Duvall, Betty Goheen, Renee Green, Terry & Donna Griffin (cousin of Harry Stull who has cancer), Jane Hack, Louie Hodge, Rose Johnson, Beulah Lasley, Michelle Lawson, Lina Lee, Bruce LeFevre, Gayle Massey, Erman McClaskey, Lucinda McCune, Terri McDonald, Lynn Parsons (co-worker of Rick Whobrey's diagnosed with cancer), Joe Pawley, Ann Peters, Patsy & Joe Richter, Florence Stull, Reiko Tarasavage, Patsy Taylor, Juanita Tillery, Laura Walker, Kevin Weaver, Nora Wilkins, Butch Yates

## Thank You

Dear Church Family,  
Thank you so much for the Christmas plant and remembering me during my brother's death. I appreciate the church so very much!

*LaVelle Dyer*

## Seeds for Ukraine

We are again collecting seeds (tomatoes, cucumbers, cabbage, carrots, beets, beans, squash, pumpkins, melons, eggplants, peppers, dill, parsley, radishes, onions) for our brethren at the Central congregation in Donetsk, Ukraine. Please bring these and put them in the container in the lobby by February 13.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **SWEETHEART DINNER**, this Saturday night, **February 9**, 6:00 p.m. in the South Wing. The men are asked to bring two dishes. CSG #1 has set up duties, CSG #2 is in charge of the night's activities, and CSG # 3 & #4 has clean up.
- **5TH GRADERS & UNDER BOWLING**, Sunday afternoon, **February 10**, at Houston's Bowling Lanes at Fort Knox. Cost \$2.50 per game and \$1.50 for shoes per person. Plans are to leave the church building promptly at 2:00. A sign up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. See Ken or Monica Bybee with any questions.
- **CHURCH WORKERS WORKSHOP**, Monday morning, **February 11**, at 10:30 a.m. at the building.
- **CHALLENGE YOUTH CONFERENCE**, for 6th-12th graders, **February 22-24**, Gatlinburg, TN.

## Pantry Item of the Week

Week of 2/10/08

Canned Soup

### BENEVOLENT CENTER UPDATE JANUARY 2007

Food Center	154 families helped
Clothing Center	56 families helped

### BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE JANUARY 2007

Courses graded	342
New Enrollees	42

### OUR RECORD FOR February 3, 2008

Sunday Bible Study	137
Sunday Morning Assembly	220
Sunday Evening Assembly	114
Tuesday Ladies Bible Class	No Class
Wednesday Bible Study	128
Contribution (Budget -- \$5,905)	\$6,577

**Elder/Coordinator for February  
Rick Whobrey**

## Bible Question

*This Week's Bible Question: With what sentence about a cord does the book of Ecclesiastes recommend friendship?*

*Last Week's Bible Question: When is a neighbor better than a brother? The correct answer is when he is nearby, Proverbs 27:10. Kay Thomason, Edna Ashlock, Mary Walker and Betty Bray correctly answered the question.*

*Please write down your answer and give it to Ray, put it in the box outside the church office before next Wednesday or email your answer to [rpack119@bbtel.com](mailto:rpack119@bbtel.com) by Tuesday afternoon. Please include the Scripture reference and your name.*

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday:

Bible Classes	9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship	10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship	6:00 P.M.

### Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class	10:30 A.M.
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### Wednesday

Evening Bible Class	7:00 P.M.
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Henry McAlister	765-7386
Mike Pence	737-8123
Rick Whobrey	769-9267

### Minister:

Ray Pack	982-3460
	cell # 723-7564

### Secretary:

Kim Whobrey	769-9267
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[www.ETOWNCOFC.ORG](http://www.ETOWNCOFC.ORG)

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Are You Part of the  
**PARTICIPATION**

Feb. 9 — Sweetheart Dinner  
Feb. 10 — 5th Grade & Under, Bowling  
Feb. 11 — Church Workers Workshop  
Feb. 17 — Youth Devo  
Feb. 22-24 — CYC, Gatlinburg, TN  
Mar. 29 — Fundamental Truths Seminar

### Daily Bible Reading Schedule

1. Numbers 1:42-3:32
2. Numbers 3:33-5:22
3. Numbers 5:23-7:59
4. Numbers 7:60-10:10
5. Numbers 10:11-13:16
6. Numbers 13:17-15:21
7. Numbers 15:22-16:50

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