



# The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ  
Vol. XXXV December 7, 2008 No. 48

## Confidence Corner

John F. Board

As we continue on our life long journey of building our faith, consider some thoughts regarding some of the Roman officials we read of in the New Testament. Luke seems to be the inspired writer who alludes to the imperial figures of Rome.

Luke refers to the imperial figures in Luke and Acts. In Luke 2:1 Augustus the emperor is referred to by name and in Luke 3:1 Tiberius the emperor is referenced by name. Claudius is mentioned twice in the book of Acts (Acts 11:28; 18:2) and perhaps alluded to in Acts 17:7. Most believe Nero is the one Luke refers to as Caesar (Acts 25:8, 11, 12, 21; 26:32; 27:24), lord (Acts 25:26), and Sebastos (Acts 25:21, 25—Philip the Tetrarch issued a coin inscribed “For Sebastos Caesar” most all agree this Sebastos was Augustus).

Regarding Augustus Caesar, some feel Luke records an event that no other source verifies. For this reason, some charge that Luke’s record of history is questionable. As a matter of fact, this claim of Luke continues to be one of the hotly debated topics of those who study the gospels. The passage under question is Luke 2:1 which reads, “In those days there went out a decree of Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled.” Much material has been written recording the reign of Augustus (27 B.C. to 14 A.D.) and even his decrees in favor of the Jews have been recorded by Josephus, yet no record has been found of a decree for a census covering the world.

What is a Christian to make of the absence of such a decree in the secular records? I would caution thinking anything much. Really such claims against the Bible are not new. For years critics claimed the Bible was not historically accurate because it mentions a nation known as the Hittites. Critics claimed there was no such nation as the Hittites. Of course all of this “hype” regarding the inaccuracy of the Scriptures in referencing the Hittite nation ended in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. Why you ask? Because excavations found records of the nation of the Hittites. As always, God’s word is true and men’s attempt to discredit it fail. I am confident such is true of the decree that went out to the world.

## Ray’s Ramblings

Ray Pack

The following is the poem that Brittany Hogan wrote several years ago about her Pappy, Bernard Gillim. I think her words are a fitting tribute to a fine Christian man.

**Bernard Gillim  
1936 - 2008**

### 68 or 3?

Pappy is a 3-year-old child trapped in a 68-year-old body.  
He was kind and compassionate, a huge cut-up.  
He doesn’t smile as much any more  
and can’t think of a clever joke.  
There was nothing he wouldn’t do for you.  
Now, if you asked him to do something for you, he wouldn’t  
know where to go or what to do.  
When I was little, he used to paint my toenails pink,  
Now he couldn’t open the finger nail polish bottle.  
He always wore a big straw hat while  
working in the garden,  
Now he couldn’t figure out how to work the hose.  
I’ll never forget that shy twinkle that lingered  
in his sapphire blue eyes.  
A sharp blank stare is all that is left now.  
It penetrates through my heart like a piercing knife.  
He may not remember what to call me,  
but he knows who I am.  
He never calls me by name,  
but he still calls me his Baby Girl.  
Deep down inside his heart, his original spirit is screaming,  
trying to get out.  
Like an innocent person held prisoner.  
He wants to be normal again.  
He tries to do the things he used to.  
But he just can’t.  
His disease may turn his thoughts to dust,  
But his spirit will linger on inside me forever.  
Whether he knows it, or not, I love and cherish him  
And I will never let my memories of him fade away.

Brittany Hogan  
Age 12

### Sunday’s Sermons:

A.M. - *Focusing on the Family*  
*Matthew 19:1-12*

P.M. - *Birth of Jesus: Special Holiday or Part*  
*of God’s Plan, Matthew 1:18-25*

# NEAR TO THEE

*Near to Thee* is the title of a poem that was written by Effie Bunner Hale, the daughter of A. A. Bunner, a gospel preacher who worked in West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Indiana in the late 1800's and early 1900's. In the past, I have worked with congregations where sister Bunner's children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great grandchildren have attended. A good friend, Andy Robison, who is extremely talented musically set this poem to music. The result has been a song that has blessed my life immeasurably. On many occasions of great spiritual pain and also great spiritual joy, the song has brought streams of tears. I cannot help but thank God for the avenue of praise in song as the poem by itself, or the tune by itself, does not bring the emotive response the hymn provides.

As I think about the message of this song, drawing near to God, it brings to mind the fact that although we always need to be striving to be near to God, there may be times that this would be especially important. I would like for us to consider a few such times in the article.

The first time that we may not think to draw near to God is perhaps a time when we need to do so the most—in times of prosperity or public acclaim. A tendency for the rich is to trust in their riches; a tendency for those who are highly acclaimed is to think of themselves too highly. Both of these times, are times when one especially needs to draw near to God (Proverbs 3:5-6).

Another time when we would do well to draw near to God is when the good we attempt to do for the cause of Christ is spoken evil of (Romans 14:16). Here a remembrance of what Christ has said regarding persecution suffered for His cause, as well as what Peter and Paul wrote through inspiration, regarding suffering as a Christian is important to know and remember (Matthew 5:10-12; 1 Peter 2:20; and 2 Timothy 3:12). Two reactions are possible when our good is spoken evil of. One reaction is to allow ourselves to be overcome and our spirits to be completely crushed. The beneficial reaction is to draw near to God which will help you to overcome the disappointments and also help you mature as a Christian (James 1:2-8). Yes the pain is real, but the reality is you can be disappointed with God (hurt while maintaining a close relationship with God) or disappointed without God. How hopelessly sad the latter choice would be!

Consider as well a very practical time to consider a need to draw near to God—when selecting a life-long mate. Marriage is intended to be a relationship shared by a man and a woman and God (Hebrews 13:3). Draw a triangle and place the man and the woman on the opposite base corners of the triangle and God at the top of the triangle. Now move the man and the woman up the sides of the triangle closer to God. What happens? You are right, the man and woman become closer to one another!

Another practical time to draw near to God is when a child is conceived. Now this blessing from God will become a soul in need of raising in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Ephesians 6:1-4). Parents have always been given the primary responsibility to raise their children to follow God (Deuteronomy 6:4ff). The age of the child and the child's individual characteristics must be taken into consideration constantly (Proverbs 22:6). Imagine the difficulty faced by those parents who are not both close to God as the above paragraph admonishes.

Lord I would be ever near thee, help me not thy path to leave. For to wander from thy presence would the Holy Spirit grieve. Near to thee, near to thee, Savior may I ever be! Near to thee, near to thee, Savior may I ever be. I've no friend on earth just like thee, whom to carry all my woes. May I ever walk beside thee till this earthly life shall close. Near to thee, near to thee, Savior may I ever be. Near to thee, near to thee, Savior may I ever be!

*John F. Board  
Elizabethtown, KY*

# News and Notes

**ELONDA CRAFTON** was to be released from HealthSouth Wednesday. **JOYCE PACK** will have surgery at University of Louisville Hospital December 15. **JIM WHITE** has been diagnosed with malignant non-Hodgkins follicular lymphoma. **WANDA HOGAN**, Dennis Hogan's mother, underwent back surgery Wednesday.

## MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ON PRAYER LISTS

Betty Addington	Carl Mercer
Neil Burden	Tom Morgan
Dana Fox	Alli Moss
Howard Gardner	Grace Speer
Faye Guess	Gene Stough
Nellie Hart	Barbara Underwood
Roy Johnson	Lonnie Underwood
David & Ruby Keister (TX)	Payton Walker
Kent Lane	Lawrence Wells
Diane Lewis	Dyrena White
J Martin	

**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 McClain, Ronald O'Bryant, Roni Reed, Hector Meza, Aaron Wellman, Michael Morrow, Israel Fox, Barry Barclay, Brian Wilkins

**Additional Prayer List:** Charlene Akridge, Weita Anderson, Delsie Axton, Sue Cantrell, David Fant, Royce Goodman, Renee Green, Ginell Harris, Don Hatcher, Louie Hodge, Mike Lane, Michelle Lawson, Lina Lee, Jennifer Martin, Gayle Massey, Erman McClaskey, John Pawley, Joe & Patsy Richter, David & Geneva Risinger, Carlos Smith, Roge-Ge-Neal Smith, Juanita Tillery, Kevin Weaver, Kendall Whisenant, Sondra Woosley

## Pantry Item of the Week

Week of 12/07/08

Canned Soup

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

### BIRTHDAYS

2. Diane Lewis	19. Roy Johnson
8. Teresa Allen	21. Joyce Fulkerson
Gavin Calloway	23. Susan Kulbacki
9. Lonnie Underwood	Brian Woodring
Laura Muncy	25. Reagan White
Kelly Leverett II	Mary Ann Hardesty
15. Chris Goodin	27. Nickie Calloway
16. Jerry Carter	Chuck Dyer
17. Zoey Cruse	28. John DeVore
Barry Barclay	30. Rosa Lee Norman
18. Sharlene Marcum	31. Karen Stough
Donna Barrett	

### ANNIVERSARIES

Marvin & Mary Ann Hardesty	December 1
Neil & Carolyn Burden	December 5
Henry & Wilma McAlister	December 17
Todd & Jane Curkendall	December 17
Jerry & Angie Carter	December 18
Gene & Karen Stough	December 20
Chris & Shirley Goodin	December 23

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **ADULT HOLIDAY PARTY**, Saturday night, **December 6**, 6:00 p.m. in the South Wing. If you would like to participate in a gift exchange, please bring a \$4-\$5 gift.
- **5TH GRADE & UNDER HOLIDAY GET-TOGETHER**, Sunday, **December 14**, in the South Wing after morning services. This will be a potluck lunch. Boys are asked to bring a gift suitable for a boy and girls are asked to bring a gift suitable for a girl. Price range for each gift is \$3-\$5. Also in addition to a gift, each boy is asked to bring a can of green beans and each girl is to bring a can of corn for the food center.
- **YOUTH (6th-12th grade) HOLIDAY PARTY**, Saturday night, **December 20**, hosted by the Hogan family.

## BENEVOLENT CENTER UPDATE NOVEMBER 2008

Food Center	190 families helped
Clothing Center	81 families helped

## BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE UPDATE NOVEMBER 2008

Courses graded	143
New enrollees	30

## OUR RECORD FOR

November 30, 2008

Sunday Bible Study	141
Sunday Morning Assembly	207
Sunday Evening Assembly	140
Wednesday Bible Study	128
Ladies Bible Class	14
Contribution (Budget -- \$6,309)	\$6,025

**Elder/Coordinator for December**  
**Henry McAlister**

## Bible Question

*This Week's Bible Question: Where in the Bible does it suggest that men should wash dishes?*

*Last Week's Bible Question: Who was the man that killed 600 men with an ox goad? The correct answer is Shamgar, Judges 3:31. Joyce Pack, Kay Thomason, Rick Eiler, Betty Bray, Mary Walker, and Edna Ashlock correctly answered the question. Mary Walker & Betty Bray also answered the previous week's question correctly.*

*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 [ray.pack@kvnet.org](mailto:ray.pack@kvnet.org) 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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### Elders:

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Henry McAlister	765-7386
Mike Pence	737-8123
Rick Whobrey	769-9267

### Ministers:

John Board	763-1677
Ray Pack	982-3460
	cell # 723-7564

### Secretary:

Kim Whobrey	769-9267
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Email: [churchofchrist@kvnet.org](mailto:churchofchrist@kvnet.org)

Visit us on the World Wide Web:  
[www.etowncofc.org](http://www.etowncofc.org)

## Daily Bible Reading Schedule

1. 2 Corinthians 8-12
2. Corinthians 13; Galatians 1:1-4:11
3. Galatians 4:12-6:18; Ephesians 1:1-14
4. Ephesians 1:15-5:14
5. Ephesians 5:15-6:24; Philippians 1-2
6. Philippians 3-4; Colossians 1
7. Colossians 2-4; 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2:12

- Dec. 6 — Adult Holiday Party  
Dec. 8 — Church Workers Workshop  
Dec. 13 — Young Adults Night Out  
Dec. 14 — 5th Grade & Under Holiday Party  
Dec. 20 — Youth Holiday Party  
Dec. 21 — 2009 Budget Presentation

## PARTICIPATION

Are You Part of the

## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Elizabethtown Church of Christ  
P. O. Box 652  
Elizabethtown, KY 42702

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