

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST~  
DECEMBER 13, 2020

**SICK/TEMPORARY:** Mario, Keegan, and Kennadee Arrington are all struggling with sinus problems. Tabatha Clayton tested negative for Covid. Both Carl Hounshell (December 17th) and Sonny Stewart are awaiting their second cataract surgeries. Karter Shamblyn has been sick with stomach problems.

**PROTRACTED:** Janice Bailey—Alzheimers; Scooter Birmingham (friend of Destiny Clayton); Brian Brown (Paul Brown's nephew)—epilepsy; Shelly Cates—fibromyalgia; Gladys Marie Elrod (Mary Ray's son-in-law's mother)—congestive heart failure; Addliae Farrow (Tabatha Clayton's great niece)—heart; Bubba Farrow (Emma Farrow's son)—Alzheimer's; Jimmy Ferguson (former preacher here)—heart rhythm; Jerry Floate (of this community)—liver transplant; Kaylie Hadley—UCTD; Paula Harrison—Meniere's Disease; Wanda Jackson—a-fib; Monica La Rock (granddaughter of Orelia Ferguson and mother of Noah); Garrett Lentz (son of a co-worker of Cody Hadley)—seizures; Sheila Massey—Bell's palsy; Easton McCullough (Grayson Hadley's best friend)—Bell's Palsy; Becky Munns (Tabatha Clayton's aunt)—heart problems, Crohn's Disease; Shelby Peyton—knee; Robert Rawson (preacher at Crockett)—diabetes; Ray Reynold's (Sheila Massey and Mary West's dad)—memory trouble; Brett Rutherford (Dan Cates' friend)—MS; Tammy Turner (a preacher's wife whom we support)—dementia; Francis Wallace (friend of Mary Ray).

**CANCER:** Clifton Angel (preacher at Coldwater)—thyroid; Sherry Brown (retired MSOP secretary); Alicia Busby (from the community); Gary Darnell (Ella Darnell's son)—leukemia as well as diabetes; Brenda Davis (a grandmother of Edra and Ryan Farrow); Tom Gordon (Cody Hadley's grandfather); Nathan Jones (the Hounshells' neighbors' 16 year old family member)—brain; Sara Kiestler (an FHU student)—Hodgkin's; Wade Loggins (member of congregation in Elkmont, AL); Dorothy Mosher (wife of an MSOP instructor); Carol Ogelsby (family of Sonny Stewart and the Browns)—stomach; Tommy Pierce (the Browns' friend); John Riley (member of the church who lives in this community)—lung; Tiffany Taylor (the Browns' friend); and Tabby Waters (Tabatha Clayton's sister-in-law)—leukemia.

**SHUT-IN:** Marie Crockett (home), Emma Farrow (in a care facility in Sardis), Orelia Ferguson (home), and Annette Cates (Dan Cates' mother who is at home in Pensacola, FL).

**SERVING:** Dylan and Maggie Cooper (Air Force, Offut AFB, Neb.), Cameron Hadley (Grayson Hadley's dad—Marines, Hawaii), Jacob Petrowski (grandson of former members here—Marines, soon to be let out). Also, please continue to pray for Kyle Embrey (Syble Embrey's grandson—policeman) and all other military [especially who are going or remain abroad] and for all those in authority that we might live "quiet and peaceable" lives (I Timothy 2:1,2).

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*Independence Church of Christ*  
8543 Highway 305  
Coldwater, MS 38618

# INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST

## The Informer



8543 Highway 305

Coldwater, MS 38618

662-560-8045

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

**Services:** Sunday 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 4:45 p.m. (pew-packers), 5 p.m.  
Wednesday 7:15 p.m.

**Ministers:** Every Christian

**Elders:** Dan Cates (662-560-8045)

Carl Hounshell (812-653-2358)

**Evangelist:** Dan Cates (662-560-8045; [dsmccates@yahoo.com](mailto:dsmccates@yahoo.com))

**Missions** [the latest reports from these works are on the bulletin board in the foyer]

Independence Mission Fund (next: tbd)

Memphis School of Preaching (Jonathan Jenkins)

Brown Trail School of Preaching (Spanish Department)

Jim and Tammy Turner (Fairfield, North Carolina)

Trent Kennedy family (Four Seas Bible College, Singapore)

Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, India [Providing Bibles]

Netcasters and Fishers of Men (Tim Wilkes, II)

Tennessee Children's Home, West

Pablo Horna (Costa Rica) [Overseeing funds]

Many one-time, domestic and overseas, mission efforts

## THE ENTITLEMENT MENTALITY, Part 3

Andy Sochor (plainbibleteaching.com)

(Continued from last week) Notice what Paul wrote about the need for contentment:

“Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need” (Philippians 4:11-12). He told the Corinthians, “I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure” (2 Corinthians 11:27). Even when Paul had to endure miserable conditions, he never suggested that he was being denied something to which he was entitled.

We are not entitled to a certain standard of living. It is possible that though hard work we may improve our lot in life (Proverbs 14:23), though we must do this within the context of serving Christ (Colossians 3:23). But even if we have nothing more than “*food and covering*,” we must “*be content*” (1 Timothy 6:8).

### We Are Not Entitled to the Possessions of Others

This is related to the previous point. Again, many see this as a *political* issue, but it is not primarily one. But since many believe they are entitled to a certain standard of living, they also believe they are entitled to take from others (or allow the civil authorities to do so) in order to get it.

The Scriptures teach that each one has a right to his own possessions. The wise man wrote, “*Here is what I have seen to be good and fitting: to eat, to drink and enjoy oneself in all one’s labor in which he toils under the sun during the few years of his life which God has given him; for this is his reward*” (Ecclesiastes 5:18). When Jesus gave the parable of the laborers in the vineyard, He expressed this principle: “*Is it not lawful for me to do what I wish with what is my own?*” (Matthew 20:15). When Ananias and Sapphira were condemned for lying to the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3), Peter explained that they had the right to use their property and money in whatever way they saw fit: “*While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control?*” (Acts 5:4). Of course, those who have been richly blessed ought to share with those in need (1 Timothy 6:18); but this is to be done out of good will and by their own free choice. We are not to steal from others to help ourselves (Ephesians 4:28). Furthermore, it is “*evil*” for the “*riches and wealth*” that one has received by the blessing of God to be taken from him and enjoyed by someone else (Ecclesiastes 6:1-2).

We are not entitled to the possessions of others. They have been blessed by God and ought to *choose* to do good with their possessions rather than their possessions being *taken* from them for our benefit.

### We Are Not Entitled to Marry Whoever We Want

These days, this issue usually comes up regarding homosexuality, but it is not limited to that. People believe they are entitled to marry whoever they want, regardless of gender or previous marriages. Yet this “entitlement” has not been given by God. (*To be concluded next week*)

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“*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.*” (Ephesians 4:14,15)

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#### BIBLE QUESTION:

This week’s question: Who was the first convert in Philippi?

Last week’s question: Who asked, “Why seek ye the living among the dead?”

Last week’s answer: The “men ... in shining garments” (angels) at Jesus’ tomb (Luke 24:4,5)

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**SERMONS:** Charles Cordon is with us this morning to talk about the mission work in Nigeria.  
"All the Counsel of God": Christians

#### DAILY BIBLE READING (December 14-20):

	Mon.	Tues.	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Sun.
<b>Hebrews</b>	11-13		<b>2 Peter</b> 1-3				
<b>Philemon</b>		1	<b>1 Timothy</b>	1-3	4-5		
<b>1 Peter</b>	1,2	3-5			<b>Titus</b>	1-3	

**SCRIPTURE READING (DECEMBER):** Cody Hadley (please see brother Cordon)

(JANUARY): Carl Hounshell

**PRESIDE LORD’S SUPPER MORNING (DECEMBER):** Thomas Massey

(JANUARY): Dan Cates

**ASSIST LORD’S SUPPER (DECEMBER):** Ray Stanford and Mark Peyton

(JANUARY): Conor Cates and Cody Hadley

**CLEAN BUILDING (DECEMBER):** The Masseys

(JANUARY): Suzanne and Katie Brown

**PREPARE COMMUNION (DECEMBER):** Kaylie Hadley

(JANUARY): Tabatha Clayton

**PANTRY NEEDS:** Imperishables.

**UPCOMING EVENTS (For particular details, check the bulletin board for flyers):**

December 20

**Devotional** and **game night** for the young people after evening services.

June 6-9, 2021

**Gospel meeting** with Brian Stewart.

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**WELCOME VISITORS!**