

INDEPENDENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST~  
JANUARY 17, 2021

**SICK/TEMPORARY:** Marie Crockett is recovering from another recent fall. Continue to pray for Crystal Brown, niece of Paul and Suzanne Brown, who has been suffering from flesh-eating bacteria. David and Kathy Jones (Shelly Cates' parents) are fighting Covid. Jerry Worthington (neighbor of the Hounshells) has been dealing with physical and emotional difficulties.

**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; 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 Reynolds (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); 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

Brown Trail School of Preaching (Spanish Department)

Jim and Tammy Turner (Fairfield, North Carolina)

Trent Kennedy family (Four Seas Bible College, Singapore)

Save Asian Souls (Providing physical and spiritual aid)

Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh, India [Providing Bibles]

Netcasters and Fishers of Men (Tim Wilkes, II)

Tennessee Children's Home, West

Pablo Horna (Panama) [Overseeing funds]

School of Biblical Studies (Jos, Nigeria)

Many one-time, domestic and overseas, mission efforts

# "AMEN AND A-WOMAN"

Brett Petrillo

According to longstanding tradition, the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress was opened with a prayer. As Rep. Emanuel Cleaver came to the end of his prayer, he concluded with “Amen and a-woman.” Yes, you read that correctly, “a-woman.” As if, in some way, “amen” was actually some chauvinistic masculine word.

To set the record straight, “amen” is an ancient Hebrew word that has been used for thousands of years. It simply means “may it be so.” In other words, after a prayer, we are collectively requesting that the words of the prayer would happen.

There is a tantalizing desire to take this article into the dumpster-fire discussion of politics, but there is a much more important lesson to learn about our culture right now—**The United States is ignorant about Christianity.**

While Rep. Cleaver may have shown us an extreme example, this religious ignorance is more common than you might think. Personally, I’ve had conversations with people who have “heard of Jesus but didn’t know what He did.” Another person hadn’t heard of Moses or knew anything about the difference between the Old Testament & New Testament. Let’s not even get started on complex Bible words like redemption, sanctification, and righteousness.

The days have long passed when we can make religious assumptions in our nation.

We need to stop assuming people know Bible words.

We need to stop assuming people know Bible people.

We need to stop assuming people know about Jesus.

We need to stop assuming people know how to pray or worship.

We need to stop assuming people know what is happening during worship.

We need to stop assuming people know the basics of Christianity.

The bottom line is...we need to stop assuming.

At this very moment, we’ve reached a place in our nation where people may not know Jesus, know the Bible, or know that “amen” isn’t a gendered word. We very well may be heading towards another time when people are darkened in their understanding because of the ignorance that is in them (Ephesians 4:17-29).

If we’re going to reach our world today and fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20), we need to change. We need to change how we think. We need to change how we teach. We need to change how we talk. We need to change what we do. We need to change how we evangelize.

Amen.

*Editor's note: Next week I plan to include an email which I sent to an article suggesting the prayer had been misconstrued.*

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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: In what do “the circumcision, which worship God in the spirit, ... have no confidence”?

Last week’s question: According to Elihu, from what direction does the cold come?

Last week’s answer: The north (*Job 37:9*)

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**SERMONS:** God and Worship (*Deuteronomy 12:5-7,11,12*)

"All the Counsel of God": Church Names

## **DAILY BIBLE READING (January 18-24):**

|            | Mon. | Tues. | Wed.  | Thur. | Fri.  | Sat.  | Sun.  |
|------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>Job</b> | 8-10 | 11-13 | 14-17 | 18-20 | 21-24 | 25-27 | 28-31 |

**SCRIPTURE READING (JANUARY):** Carl Hounshell (Acts 7:24,25)

*(FEBRUARY): Dan Cates*

**PRESIDE LORD’S SUPPER MORNING (JANUARY):** Dan Cates

*(FEBRUARY): Cody Hadley*

**ASSIST LORD’S SUPPER (JANUARY):** Conor Cates and Cody Hadley

*(FEBRUARY): Ray Stanford and Mark Peyton*

**CLEAN BUILDING (JANUARY):** Suzanne and Katie Brown

*(FEBRUARY): The Hounshells*

**PREPARE COMMUNION (JANUARY):** Tabatha Clayton

*(FEBRUARY): Kim Arrington*

**PANTRY NEEDS:** Imperishables

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

January 31

On the fifth Sunday, we will have our **potluck**. If you have any Bible questions, please turn them in because we will be answering any questions as part of that evening’s class session.

June 6-9

**Gospel meeting** with Brian Stewart.

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## **WELCOME VISITORS!**

We are honored to have you with us today. Please take a few minutes and fill out an attendance card for us so that we can have a record of your attendance. Once you have filled out a card, please hand it to one of the members, or lay it onto the pew.