

## HEARD BUT NOT SEEN

Have you ever considered how different the true and living God is from the pagan deities spoken of in the Bible? The pagan gods were seen but never heard, but the one and only true God is heard but not seen. I believe that acknowledging this difference will help us in times of trouble.

You see, how many times do people ask the question, "Where is God?", especially when they are suffering. I would suggest that this is the wrong question. The better question would be to ask, "What has God said?" And when we ask that question, we'll find comfort and understanding. What comfort and understanding can come from a god who can be seen, but cannot speak to us? Oh, how those pagan deities stand in stark contrast with the God of heaven!

Next time you're tempted to ask, "Where is God?", remember that's not how God has chosen to reveal Himself. Instead, ask, "What has God said?", and it's in His Word that you will find comfort and understanding. Give it some thought.

(via Arthur Church of Christ website, 11/05/2017, Author Unknown)

### ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

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CHURCH OF CHRIST  
711 N. Main Street  
P.O. Box 88  
Carthage, TN 37030  
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# SMITH COUNTY LIGHT

*"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)*



MEETING PLACE OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

#### Elders:

Michael Hackett  
(615-897-2313)  
Johnny Law  
(615-735-1240)  
Jerry Phillips  
(615-735-0326)  
R.W. Vincent  
(615-735-0361)

#### Evangelist:

Edward L Anderson  
(615-735-2462)

#### Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin  
(931-319-6548)

#### Secretary:

Elaine Wright  
(615-735-0114)

711 N. Main Street  
P.O. Box 88  
Carthage, TN. 37030  
(615) 735-0114

Email: [carthagecoc@dtccom.net](mailto:carthagecoc@dtccom.net)

#### SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

##### Sunday Worship

9:00 A.M.

6:00 P.M.

12:30 P.M. (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday)

##### Bible Study

Sunday Morning

10:15 A.M.

Wednesday Evening

7:00 P.M.

For Transportation to Services  
615-735-0114 or 615-418-6637

Fax Number: (615) 735-0131

Website: [www.carthagechurchofchrist.net](http://www.carthagechurchofchrist.net)

Sunday Services broadcast on YouTube

FREE Bible Correspondence Courses, Tracts or Home Bible Study/ Videos.  
(615-735-0114 or 615-735-2462)

**"VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME"**

## FROM THE RUINS

The name of Thomas Edison is often associated with his inventions. He invented the microphone, the phonograph, a commercially viable incandescent light bulb, the storage battery, talking movies, and more than 1,000 other things. But Thomas Edison wasn't always successful in his inventions.

In December of 1914 he had worked for 10 years on a storage battery. This had greatly strained his finances. One particular evening spontaneous combustion broke out in the film room. Within minutes all the packing compounds, celluloid for records and film, and other flammable goods were in flames. Fire companies from eight surrounding towns arrived, but the heat was so intense and the water pressure so low that the attempt to douse the flames was futile. Everything was destroyed. Edison was 67-years-old at the time. With all his assets going up in a whoosh (although the damage exceeded two million dollars, the buildings were only insured for \$238,000 because they were made of concrete and thought to be fireproof), would his spirit be broken?

The inventor's 24-year-old son, Charles, searched frantically for his father. He finally found him, calmly watching the fire, his face glowing in the reflection, his white hair blowing in the wind. "My heart ached for him", said Charles. "He was 67; no longer a young man; and everything was going up in flames. When he saw me, he shouted, "Charles, where's your mother?" When I told him I didn't know, he said, "Find her. Bring her here. She will never see anything like this as long as she lives."

The next morning, Edison looked at the ruins and said, "There is great value in disaster. All our mistakes are burned up. Thank God we can start anew." Three weeks after the fire, Edison managed to deliver the first phonograph.

Because of our sins, our lives are ruined and doomed to destruction (Romans 3:23; 6:23). But God loves us so much that He gave His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins to bring life to our sin-ruined lives. *"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace"* (Ephesians 1:7).

God will save and give eternal life to those who place their **faith** and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in **repentance** (Acts 17:30-31), **confess** Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are **baptized** into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). Then as we walk in the light as He is in the light, the blood of Jesus continues to cleanse us from sin (1 John 1:7-9).

Thank God we can start anew.

Won't YOU accept His offer of salvation and life?

(David A. Sargent, Minister, Creekwood church of Christ, Mobile, AL.)

## ***FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:***

WELCOME VISITORS! We are delighted to have you in our midst. We trust your visit will be refreshing and profitable spiritually. If you have questions about things seen and heard, feel free to discuss them with us. Please come again. May God bless and keep you.

Our elders have announced that we will resume an adapted schedule of public services this Sunday, May 10, with a 9:00 A.M. gathering for those who feel comfortable and desire to assemble. There will also be a 6:00 P.M. Sunday service, which will be helpful for those who are unable to attend on Sunday morning due to work schedules. You may also attend the Wednesday auditorium Bible class at 7:00 P.M., if you so desire. **There will be no Bible classes downstairs Sunday morning or Wednesday evenings.** Children's classes are being provided on-line. The Sunday morning, Sunday evening, and Wednesday services may also be viewed on-line.

The shepherds ask that we all practice safe spacing/distancing in the foyer/entrance area as well as in the auditorium. Please practice common sense hygiene (hand sanitizing/washing, shielding coughs, sneezes, etc.). We will not be passing communion and collection trays. Personal communion items can be picked up as you enter the front entrance. A collection tray will also be available for your contributions. (The table in the annex will be maintained for those who cannot attend.)

Of course, those who are sick, have a fever, or other symptoms, whether adults or children, should stay at home. Be watching/listening for updates and announcements as other necessary changes may be made.

Some scheduled events have been postponed and will be rescheduled. They include the Bible Lands studies with Duane Gossett scheduled for May 3, 10, and 17. They will be rescheduled for summer or early fall. The Ark Encounter trip scheduled for late May will also be rescheduled. Our Vacation Bible School scheduled for June 8-12 has been cancelled, but our Wednesday Summer Series will begin June 3 and continue for thirteen (13) weeks with "our own" brethren presenting lessons.

Jackson/Smith County Youth Camp (JSCYC), is still scheduled for July 19-25. We are proceeding with preparation, as if it will occur. Counsellor applications are now available (on table in annex and in the foyer). Complete and return ASAP

This has been/still is a difficult time for all. Keep the faith, pray fervently, and trust God. Keep your eye on the goal!

***Edward L. Anderson***

## ***NEWS & NOTES:***

**SICK:** Gail Vincent is recuperating from throat/neck surgery performed last Friday at Vanderbilt. Steve Harper will be undergoing back surgery on Friday. Cheryl Hicks will have carpal tunnel surgery on her left hand/arm Friday. Gaye Yeaman fell recently but was not injured. Faye Maberry continues chemo on Fridays. Beth Fisher, Ruby's daughter-in-law, has surgery tomorrow (May 7). Jan Anderson has not be as well, Eric Leonard (Montrose), is at home recuperating from burn wounds after a stay at Vanderbilt. W. A. Gibbs is having an additional half hour of dialysis. (Reminder: Members, please contact the office – 615-735-0114 – with updates and news about the sick.)

**PRAYER LIST:** Barbara Williams; Michael Parsons; Laurie Adcock; Wendy Williams; Mai Doris Barrett; Roslyn Fox Stout; Wanda Hailey; Denise Griffin; James Hix; Rylee Winfree; Josh Dillard; Gary Dillard; Rebecca Huffines Thompson; Tommy & Linda Ashburn; Cathy Findley; Jerry Hutchins; Danny Claire; Edna Shoulders; Bill Ross; Scott Bane; Wanda Hailey, Patsy Link; Tyrone Poynter; Mark Manning; Emily Moss and children; Lucas Wakefield; Linda Dennis; Gary Anderson; Brad Wilson; Shirley Henry; Roy Hicks; Bob & Donnieta White; John Conditt; Duane Hesson; Billy Woodard; Tammy Bush; Jerry Glenn; Bentley Cowan; David Lipe; Louie Gray West; Taylor & Spencer Keaton; Paulette Blackburn, Emily Allen; Judy Fox Jones; Will Gregory; Rick Blankenship; Debby Flatt; Ken Miller; Tom Brown; Alicia Haynes; Joey Black; Joe Kemp; Susanne Tisdale; Tim Smith; Pattie Birdwell; Mary Ellen Lawrence; Donna Kemp; Ray Hobbs; Wes Stafford; Sawyer Cole; Richard Rhoten; Buddy & Jan Chaffin; Troy Spivey; Janice Anderson; Earl Carter; Jennie Burnett; Arnold Rich.

**NURSING HOME/ASSISTED/LIVING/SHUT-INS:** Lovell Chaffin; Wilma Richardson; Judith Newberry; Mary Lou Smith Frances Glosser; Ricky Branham (SCH&R); Loneta Bains (Pavilion); Horace Jones (NHC, Cookeville); Hattie Branham and Pat Paysinger (Shut-ins).

**IN THE MILITARY:** Jana Watson, Ann Carter's grand-daughter (Army); Randy Carter's sons and Lacey Crockett's brothers, Derek (Army) & Landon Carter (Coast Guard); Benjamin Gentry (Marines); Camron Huff (Marines); Derek Brothers (Army National Guard – now in the Middle East), Ruby Fisher's grandson-in-law.

**THANK YOU NOTES:** The church has received and read "Thank You" cards/notes from Glenn and Molly McDonald.

**THANKS!** The Sunday night storm blew a tree down next door with the branches partially blocking the south drive. Chris Hicks cleared them on Monday. Thanks, Chris!

**EVENTS CALENDAR:** *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November, 2:00 PM; *Jackson Smith County Youth Camp:* July 19-25; *Annual Singing:* Friday, August 7, 7:00 PM; *Bible Bowl:* September 12; *Run for Don:* September 19; *Retreat:* October 9-11; *Gospel Meeting:* October 4-7, with Clarence DeLoach.

**AREA EVENTS:** *Singing:* Cumberland Caverns Singing hosted by Crossville church of Christ. Saturday, August 1, 6:30 PM – brochure posted; *Polishing the Pulpit:* August 12-20, 2020.

**GRADUATES:** We need pictures of the graduating seniors and information of others graduating (Kindergarten; 8<sup>th</sup> Grade, college). Congratulations to all graduates.

**SYMPATHY:** To the Johnny and Susan Law family in the recent death of Johnny's uncle, Dr. Jack Johnson of Gainesboro.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** We congratulate Dennis and Darlene Hackett (Mrs. Hattie, too!), on becoming foster parents last week to Addie, a sweet six-year-old.

**VISITATION:** Thanks to all who assist with visitation. We may not be able to visit in person, but please call and check on the one you are assigned. A personal note or card would be encouraging. Contact Josh Brown if you have questions.

**UPDATES:** With services resuming there may be those who may not be able to attend so the table in the annex will be maintained with communion supplies, a collection tray, bulletins, and other reading materials. Those with keys may come by through the week and pick up items as needed. You can also mail contributions to the church at P.O. Box 88, Carthage, TN. 37030. All our mission and benevolent works are continuing.

**THANK YOU!** To all who brought commodities for Tennessee Children's Home or assisted with a donation for perishables. Brother Glen came by for pick up last week and expressed gratitude on behalf of TCH. May God bless the children!

"Praise you the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for He is good: for His mercy endures forever" (Psalm 106:1).