

WHEN YOU ARE IN OVER YOUR HEAD

Johnny Hester

Now it was about the sixth hour, and there was darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. Then the sun was darkened, and the veil of the temple was torn in two. And then Jesus cried out with a loud voice, He said, "Father, into Your hands I commit My spirit." Having said this, He breathed His last. (Luke 23:44-46)

"He breathed His last." Those words can cause one's heart to sink. When Jesus exhaled for a final time on the cross, all the minions of Hell may well have thought the battle was over and that victory belonged to Satan their evil commander. But how wrong they were! And how horrified they must have been just a short time later! Yes, Jesus suffered and died. He was buried. But then "He rose again the third day, according to the Scriptures" (1 Corinthians 15:4)! Furthermore, "He [The Father] has put all things under His feet" (v 27)! Think for a moment about the wonderful implications of that truth that should compel us to praise, worship and live for God.

"He put all things under His feet" (v 27). Do you ever feel that you are in way over your head with problems? That may be the case, but Jesus is over all things. He is in Heaven, interceding on your behalf! A glorious fact is powerfully declared in Romans 8:34, **"Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us."** Where are your problems? "Under His feet"! Jesus is alive! He is in control! Jesus is coming again!

Beloved, is there someone in your life who is hurting, suffering, struggling? Consider sending that person a note of encouragement and be sure to use Romans 8:34 as a closing verse of hope. Letting one know that Christ is alive, above, active and working on the behalf of His people can bring a comfort and strength nothing else can produce. -via BulletinGold Extra

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26

January 11, 2023

Number 1

CHURCH OF CHRIST
711 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 88
Carthage, TN 37030
RETURN SERVICE
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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:

Barry Cook
(615-735-3194)
Michael Hackett
(615-735-7046)
Johnny Law
(615-735-1240)
R.W. Vincent
(615-735-0361)

Evangelist:

Edward L. Anderson
(615-735-2462)

Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin

Secretary:

Elaine Wright
(615-735-0114)

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

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Worship

9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.
12:30 P.M. (Last Sunday of month)

Bible Study

Sunday Morning 10:15 A.M.
Wednesday Evening 7:00 P.M.

Deacons:

Josh Brown
(931-319-9994)
Tony Hackett
(615-735-9037)
Steve Harper
(615-735-2651)
Chris Hicks
(615-418-6472)
Jerry Hicks
(615-418-6637)
Justin Mauldin
(931-319-6548)
Andy Rutherford
(615-418-5050)
Dusty Whitaker
(615-709-1086)

Email: carthagecoc@dtccom.net
Fax Number: (615) 735-0131

Website: www.carthagechurchofchrist.net

Sunday & Wednesday Services broadcast on Facebook & YouTube

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

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

"VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME"

CAN AFFLICTION BE GOOD?

Edward L Anderson

Affliction is that which causes pain and suffering. It is hard to imagine anyone enjoying it. It has its "cords", signifying that it tends to bind and restrict us (Job 36:8). But is it always bad? Can it be a blessing? There is evidence in the Holy Scriptures that it can be a factor in making us a better person.

Joseph is a favorite Bible character of many and not without reason (Gen. 37-50). As a young man he suffered "bullying" at the hands of his brothers. He was eventually sold to be a slave in a strange land, Egypt! Far from his father and family, he would be falsely accused of rape which resulted in his imprisonment. Though a model prisoner who aided his fellow prisoners, he was forgotten by them when they were released. Eventually he was released and rose to prominence and power and became the "savior" of Egypt and his own family! How did Joseph view his earlier affliction? When he named his second son, Ephraim, here it what he said, "For God has caused me to be fruitful in **the land of my affliction**" (Gen. 41:52)!

Inspiration provides another inspiring example in the person of David. Though he was far from perfect, when confronted with his sinfulness he was usually prompt in demonstrating penitence. He was chosen by God to succeed Saul as King because he was "a man after His (God's) own heart" (1 Sam. 13:14). He was hunted by Saul, much as a wild animal, though he desired no harm to come to Saul. How did such a man as David view affliction? In his longest Psalm, "the sweet singer of Israel" provides some insight: **"It is good for me that I have been afflicted**, that I may learn Your statutes. The law of Your mouth is better to me than thousands of coins of gold and silver" (Psa. 119:71-72). He declares that affliction can be good for one! But how can it be?!

Our third example is the apostle Paul. He said he "was given...a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest (he) should be exalted above measure" (2 Cor. 12:7). He asked the Lord three times to remove it, but the Lord said, "My grace is sufficient for you..." He went on to say, "I will rather glory in my infirmities..." (See 2 Cor. 12:9.) The faithful apostle and servant of the Lord further reminds us: "For our **light affliction**, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Cor. 4:17).

Affliction can soften our heart, open our eyes and redirect our vision, open our ears to God's word, and totally change our perspective. It can be the best thing that happens to us.

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

GREETINGS TO OUR VISITORS! A warm welcome to you. We are honored by your presence and are delighted you came our way. If new to our area, we cordially invite you to be with us for all our services (see schedule on front of this bulletin).

It has been a while since Christmas and New Year both fell on Sunday. Our 9:00 A.M. attendance was the same for both and was our highest for some time. We should always keep our priorities in place. For good reasons the first day of the week is affectionally called "the Lord's Day" by the faithful (Rev. 1:10). Why not resolve to be in His house every first of the week?!

The bishops presented our 2023 weekly budget January 1. We are grateful to them for their leadership in seeking to get the gospel to this community and throughout the world. In addition to an extensive mission emphasis, it reflects benevolence outreach, edification of the local body, our youth ministry, and other good works. It reflects an increase of \$138 over the previous budget. Let's accept the challenge!

Thanks to all those who have responded to the request for donations to the youth fund. Your generosity is appreciated and will be beneficial to our younger ones. Thanks to Justin and Sarah Mauldin for their work and to several other couples who assist. We had a good representation present for Rome's Youth Night Sunday afternoon. Matt Oxley delivered an excellent lesson for the youth and all others to consider. We will be hosting the next Smith County Youth Night March 5, 5:00 P.M.

We express gratitude to the Chris and Susan Klamm family for hosting a New Year's gathering December 31. About twenty attended. Thanks for your hospitality !

We will have our first Q&A period this coming Sunday at the 11:00 A.M. service. Several excellent questions have been submitted. If you have a question about a biblical text or subject, please write it down on the provided index cards and place it in the question box in the foyer.

Happy Haven Children's Home (Cookeville) is in need of house parents – husband & wife. You may check out the bulletin board near the north entrance for more info or contact the Administrator, Houston Bynum at 931-526-2052 or by Email: happyhaven@frontiernet.net. We have been long time supporters of this good work.

On a personal note, thanks for your continued concern for Barbara (cold/infection), and me (broken finger). We are much improved. I hope to see you Sunday morning a little before 9:00!

Edward L Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

SICK: Brenda Bowman had carotid artery stent placement last Thursday at Cookeville Regional. Remember her (and Richard) in your prayers. So good to see Lola King and Faye Maberry with us Sunday. Janice Hicks is still not doing well. Michelle Allen is still unable to be with us as she deals with an injury to her foot. Gerald Piper is being treated with medications instead of surgery for heart issues. Several have been dealing with "seasonal" issues: R. W. Vincent (strep); Tony (knee) and Jo Hackett; Jake White; Steve Bray; Barbara Jenkins; and Barbara Anderson. Prayers are requested for Teresa Mayo Waldran (the late Ethel Duke's granddaughter), after hip replacement surgery. Steve Harper has had several tests as he preps for upcoming knee surgery. Continue to remember Jerry and Mary Phillips. Prayers are requested for Sonya Swallows (cancer); Bobby King; Joseph Law; Hudson Anderson; Hope Gibbs; Annika Oldham; Hannah McDowell; Betty Carter; Tom and Sherry Culver; Sharon Halliburton; Tish Clark (B. J.'s wife), who has cancer; Colton Ferrell; Jean White; Mark Goad (Bagdad); Janice Wilson (stroke); Ted Gaw; Mike Shoulders; Brenda Brawner; Dwight Fuqua; Drew Gallagher; Joy Conner; Scott Bane; Jerry Driver; Brenda Aikens; Janet Rose; Ruby Anderson; Joe Armistead; Wayne Hall; Brenda Forrest; and Bea Davis.

NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING/ SHUT-INS: Mary Lou Smith; Ricky Branham (SCHR); Lonetta Bains (Pavilion – Lebanon); Robbie North, Barbara Billington (Pavilion – Carthage); Betty Denning (Quality Care, Lebanon); Pat Paysinger (Shut-in).

IN THE MILITARY: Korrey King – USMC (Grandson of Bobby & Lola King); Jana Watson, Ann Carter's granddaughter (Army); Randy Carter's sons and Lacey Crockett's brothers, Derek (Army) and Landon Carter (Coast Guard); PFC Samuel Burton (USMC), Darlene Fariss' grandson; Benjamin Gentry(USMC).

SYMPATHY: Our sympathy is extended to the following: Cathy Spivey in the death of her uncle, Bill Searle; the family of Jerrell and Briana Thomas Smith in the loss of their baby, Turner Smith; Wayne Burton family, in the passing of his wife Carolyn; family of Bill Reece; family of Bobby Gregory; and the family of Glenn Gregory.

ITEMS NEEDED FOR POTTER'S: The Children's Home needs the following: Rice Krispies; Graham Crackers; Shampoo; Spray'n Wash; and 2T-3T Girls Pullups. Truck will be here the week of January 22. Please help if you can.

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November. *Men's Breakfast:* Saturday, January 21, 2023, 8:00 A.M.; *Fifth Sunday Pavilion Devotional:* 1/29/2023, 2:00 PM; *JSCYC 2023:* July 16-21. *Annual Singing:* Friday, August 4, 2023.

TEACHERS & TEACHERS' HELPERS NEEDED: Thank you to those who have responded to our need for teachers and helpers in some of the children's classes. There is an ongoing need for teachers and helpers so that others might have a break. Sometimes a helper is needed because of the numbers in a class. Please contact Andy Rutherford if you can assist. Thanks Andy and all teachers for your service to the Lord!

AREA/YOUTH EVENTS: *Gospel Meeting:* Willow Avenue church of Christ (Cookeville), January 8-11, with different speakers (See posted advertisement); *Young Men's Seminar:* East Main (Murfreesboro), "Choices", with Webb Williams, February 4, 2023, Registration begins at 8:00 AM; Lunch served; *Smith County Youth Nights:* Carthage will host March 5, 2023 at 5:00 PM; and Brush Creek will host May 7, 2023 at 5:00 PM. Gordonsville, Montrose, and Rome have hosted previously.

MEN'S BREAKFAST: The annual breakfast for the men – young and old – is one week from this Saturday (1/14). January 21, 2023 is the date! 8:00 A.M. is the time! Please plan to attend and invite a friend.

A BABY SHOWER

**You are invited to a baby shower for
MORGAN & EMERY LEE DODSON**

**Saturday, February 4, 2:00-4:00 P.M.
Carthage Church of Christ Annex
711 North Main Street, Carthage, TN 37030**

**Registered at Amazon & Walmart
Please RSVP to Lelani at (615) 489-5836**

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