



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

March 2019

The God in the Old is the God in the New

*"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you", saith the Lord,
"Thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."*

Jeremiah 29

Deep inside all of us is the ignorant self-destructive notion that God is more inclined to cast us into hell than receive us with open arms into heaven. Be honest—it's there. That place deep inside us is call "the flesh". It is the part of us where Paul explains, *"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing."* As Christians, *"oft we meet together, oft we sing and pray"* to keep our hearts out of the darkness of the flesh and in the light of the Spirit.

Recently, with the weather in the Arctic Circle deciding to circle down to Iowa, many of us were stuck in our igloos on the Lord's Day . . . and Wednesday evenings . . . and some of us even the next Lord's Day. Many of us were getting a bad case of spiritual 'cabin fever'. Dianne posted her feelings this way on Martensdale's congregation Facebook page, *"I am missing my tribe!"*

It does not take long for Christians to miss one another's company. We miss the edification we get on our Lord's Day, when we sing songs of our *"home over there"* and share the unleavened bread, the fruit of the vine and hear the good word of God, all which lifts our hearts out of the dark clouds of fleshy thinking and strengthens our spiritual minds in the light of the Lord.

Now sadly, most of the world right outside our doors, does not have this Light revealed to them. It is not an option for them. Why? Because ignorance and lies have closed their minds. Many have been persuaded by bitter and unbelieving voices, who take more pleasure in showing God as an unforgiving, condemning, unfeeling hater of mankind, who takes great pleasure in man's misery.

And they literally scoff the idea of the true God whose total desire is for man's good. Even some

with the name Church of Christ believe and teach that God was different, harsher, in the Old Testament than the God of Love in the New. And they are willingly ignorant of what God Himself said on that matter—"I am the Lord. I change not."

He made the merciful way of salvation before the New Testament, even before the Old Testament. Matter of fact, he made the plan of man's salvation "before the world began". He was always a God of love.

In the Old Testament, God Himself expresses his mind and heart towards man with a familiar New Testament tone.

"And the Lord passed by before [Moses], and proclaimed,

*The Lord, The Lord God,
* merciful
* and gracious,
* longsuffering, and
* abundant in goodness and truth,
* keeping mercy for thousands,
* forgiving iniquity, transgression and sin"*

These qualities sound more like a merciful Jesus than the God whose Law is in tables of stone. But it is God . . . as He always was, is, and ever shall be—God IS Love.

Believe that God is on YOUR side. Not against you. Not even when you fall.

*"The Lord . . . is longsuffering toward us, **NOT willing that any should perish**, but that all should come to repentance."*

Lord, let Thy will be done!



Chariton

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. (no evening services)
Location: 15th & Roland, Chariton, Iowa
For information call: Albert Schreck (641) 535-2381 or Brian Schreck (641) 535-2931

- Delores VanEgdom has been having some health issues which caused her to spend some time in the hospital. She is at home now.



March Birthdays

- ★ 23 - Evelyn Bennett

March Anniversaries

- ★ 19 - Albert & Jeanette Schreck

Dean Avenue

Meeting times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Last Sunday of the month: A social after morning services meeting back at 1 pm instead of 6 pm.
Location: 2907 Dean Ave., Des Moines, Iowa / P.O. Box 57398, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327
For information call: John McNeece (515) 263-9428

- Neal and Peg have been unable to attend services. Neal has fallen twice, and Peg hurt her back trying to help him up.
- Glenn Meacham had surgery for stage 4 bladder cancer. He will be having further treatment.
- Earl Allen was in CCU in the hospital for several days with very high blood sugars caused by the immunotherapy. He is now in skilled care at Valley View Village to learn how to manage his diabetes, so he can go home.
- Bill and Shirley McNeece have been sick.

- Visitors this month were Paxon Boozell and Bill, Bryan, Max and Tally Charlier.



March Birthdays

- ★ 14 Peter Hawthorne
- ★ 16 Neal Warren
- ★ 29 Greg Head
- ★ 30 Roberta Milinsky

March Anniversaries

- ★ Larry & Jan Sellers

Fairview

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 1001 S. 22nd St, Clarinda, Iowa 51632
For information call: Richard Negley (712)542-3728 or Marvin Negley (712)542-2792

- Our services were cancelled on February 17th due to excessive snow and cold weather.
- Steve & Tammie Driftmier flew To Florida and brought her parents Jack & Bobbi Swisher home as they are needing some extra care.

- We enjoyed having John Lee with us February 24 for the morning and afternoon services.



March Birthdays

- ★ 7 - Jean Negley

Martensdale

Meeting Times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
1st & 3rd Sundays of the month: Basket dinner after morning service meeting back at 1 pm instead of 6 pm.
Location: 10985 44th Lane, Prole, Iowa (1.5 miles east of Martensdale, IA on Hwy. 92)
For information call: Duane Proudfit (515) 961-4470 or Mike Penick (515) 681-0279

- First four Sundays in March (of five) will be potluck dinner after morning services. Meeting back for song, questions, and Bible study at 1 pm.
- Wendy Hounsom continues to recover from her surgery. She has returned to the Cancer Treatment Center for some follow up visits. Please continue to keep her and her family in your prayers.
- Mary Proudfit was able to return to services February 24 after an extended absence due to her health. She is scheduled to have another test this week. Please continue to pray for Mary.
- Duane Proudfit will also have a test done on his lungs this week.
- Mike and Tracy Penick have been enjoying a cruise.



March Birthdays

- ★ 7 – Courtney Teightmeyer
- ★ 10 – Tom Collier
- ★ 18 – Dave Henderson
- ★ 20 – Rusty Bown

March Anniversaries

- ★ 14 – Dave and Christy Henderson
- ★ 27 – Dick and Phyllis Bown

Events

- ★ Meeting with Tad Morris March 9 and 10.
- ★ We have rescheduled our meeting with Wade Stanley for March 23 and 24.

Pleasant Hill

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Every Sunday: Potluck with afternoon service (Every Sunday – Dec 2 thru Feb 24)
Location: 5091 E. University, Pleasant Hill, Iowa
Website: pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org
For information call: Lowell Hermon (515) 989-0727, Mike Warner (515) 967-4529

- Not much news as we had to cancel the last two weeks of Sunday services due to bad weather (Feb. 17 & 24).
- Suzanne Harvey has been moved to skilled care/rehab at Parkridge Specialty Care, 5800 NE 12th Avenue / Pleasant Hill, IA 50327. Cards of encouragement would be wonderful.
- The elders have decided that we can continue our afternoon services and basket dinners through the month of March. Spring will eventually show up.

- Suzanne Harvey was taken by ambulance to the hospital 2/17 to monitor her health. She has been admitted. Please keep Suzanne in your prayers.

- Niko Felice will be playing rugby in New Zealand this spring. He left on Saturday, 2/16. Please pray for his journey and continued faithfulness.



Vandalia

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m.
Location: 2.5 miles east of Runnells, Iowa on F70, then 1 mile north on 131st St.
Website: vandaliacoc.com
For information call: Greg Ingle (515) 994-2824 or Charles Ingle (515) 966-2537

- Quiet month at Vandalia.



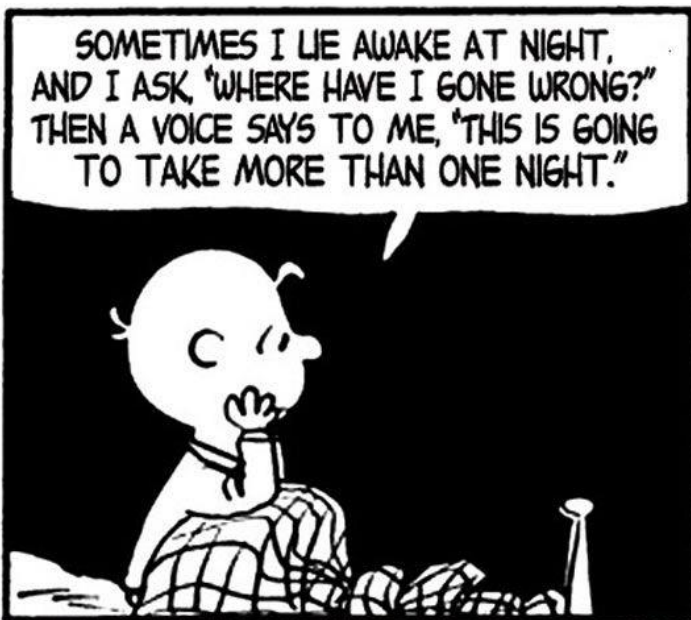
March Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ★ 4 Devon Ingle | ★ 15 Marvin Ingle |
| ★ 19 Mariha Henle | ★ 21 Nick Guthrie |
| ★ 22 Mason Burkman | ★ 22 Abigail Ingle |
| ★ 23 Sharon Cummings | ★ 29 Michael Cummings |
| ★ 29 Abbi Henle | ★ 29 Alan Klein |

March Anniversaries

- ★ 23 James & Laura Dowdy

"In patience possess ye your souls!"



"The Lord is on my side. I will not fear. What can man do unto me?"



Scholarship has determined that of all the world's "Great Religions", only Christianity has a "universal" quality, able to be embraced by all countries and cultures.

Source: **Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics**,
 edited by John Hastings.
 Volume 3: Burial-Confucianism

CHRISTIANITY UNIVERSAL, NOT NATIONAL

Among the historical religions we may make a further distinction into national and universal.

The beliefs and customs of a religion may be so bound up with racial characteristics and national peculiarities as to impose, by its very nature, a limitation in the practicable expansion of the religion.

Confucianism is so adapted to China that it has not spread (except to Japan) beyond the borders of that Empire, unless when Chinese immigrants have carried it with them.

Buddhism and Islam both claim to be universal in character, and so have shown themselves missionary in effort as rivals to Christianity. But on closer examination, neither proves itself as a suitable for a world religion as Christianity does.

Buddhism in its original form, so far as scholarship can fix it, appears as a monastic system, reflecting its

purpose and method alike the pessimism of the Indian temperament, and is thus seen to be unfit for the role of inspiring and directing any progressive society.

Islam, too, is both in creed and code so bound up with the peculiarities of Arab thought and life, that, unless it should undergo a thorough transformation, it could not be expected to win acceptance in any highly cultured and civilized society.

Christianity alone has shown that, on the one hand, it meets the needs of the soul of man as no other religion does, and that, on the other, hand, it can adapt itself in so doing to varying conditions as no other can. It appears now as the only religion that can properly claim universality.

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*"Thou hast created all things,
 and for Thy pleasure, they are and were created."*



Perhaps the most important secular reference to Jesus Christ

Tacitus c. 56 – c. 120 AD

Senator and historian of the Roman Empire.

Reporting on Emperor Nero's decision to blame the Christians for the fire that had destroyed Rome in A.D. 64, the Roman historian Tacitus wrote what is now often called, "the most important reference to Jesus Christ outside the New Testament"

Tacitus wrote two major works—the *Annals* and the *Histories*. These examine the reigns of the emperors Tiberius, Claudius, Nero, and those who reigned in 'the Year of the Four Emperors' (69 AD). These two works span the history of the Roman Empire from the death of Augustus, in 14 AD, to the years of the First Jewish–Roman War, in 70 AD. The most famous passage in which Tacitus mentions Christianity is as follows (*Annals*, book 15, chapter 44, written c. A.D. 116):

Such indeed were the precautions of human wisdom. The next thing was to seek means of propitiating^[1] the gods, and recourse was had to the Sibylline books^[2], by the direction of which prayers were offered to Vulcanus, Ceres, and Proserpina. Juno, too, was entreated by the matrons, first, in the Capitol, then on the nearest part of the coast, whence water was procured to sprinkle the fane and image of the goddess.

And there were sacred banquets and nightly vigils celebrated by married women. But all human efforts, all the lavish gifts of the emperor, and the propitiations of the gods, did not banish the sinister belief that the conflagration^[3] [the burning of Rome] was the result of an order [from Emperor Nero].

Consequently, to get rid of the report, Nero fastened the guilt and inflicted the most exquisite^[4] tortures on a class hated for their abominations, called Christians by the populace.

Christus, from whom the name had its origin, suffered the extreme penalty during the reign of Tiberius at the hands of one of our procurators, Pontius Pilatus, and a most mischievous superstition, thus checked for the moment, again broke out not only in Judaea, the first source of the evil, but even in Rome, where all things hideous and shameful from every part of the world find their center and become popular.

*Accordingly, an arrest was first made of **all who pleaded guilty**; then, upon their information, an immense multitude was convicted, not so much of the crime of firing the city, as of hatred against mankind.*

Mockery of every sort was added to their deaths. Covered with the skins of beasts, they were torn by dogs and perished, or were nailed to crosses, or were doomed to the flames and burnt, to serve as a nightly illumination, when daylight had expired.

Nero offered his gardens for the spectacle, and was exhibiting a show in the circus, while he mingled with the people in the dress of a charioteer or stood aloft on a car.

Hence, even for criminals who deserved extreme and exemplary punishment, there arose a feeling of compassion; for it was not, as it seemed, for the public good, but to glut one man's cruelty, that they were being destroyed.

[1] **propitiating**: win or regain the favor of (a god, spirit, or person) by doing something that pleases them; appease, placate, pacify.

[2] **Sibylline**: relating to or characteristic of a sibyl—a woman in ancient times supposed to utter the oracles and prophecies of a god.

[3] **conflagration**: an extensive fire which destroys a great deal of land or property.

[4] **exquisite**: intensely felt; excruciating, agonizing, piercing.