



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

May 2018

“Christ, His Plan, and His People!”

On Mutual Edification and the Lord's Church

If there is a place in the Scriptures that might be called “The Lord’s Prayer” it would be in John 17. Jesus was preparing for His coming trial and subsequent crucifixion, and part of His preparation was a prayer to His Father.

He begins by praying that He and His Father would be glorified. He then prays for His chosen disciples that they be sanctified for their coming work. Jesus then closes His prayer by praying for His people, His saints, His Christians that they may cling to His plan as taught through those same apostles. (In other words, Jesus was praying for us!)

With these thoughts in mind it is always a great encouragement to see the Lord’s people follow His plan in regard to His church as well as their individual lives. Yes, we are indeed in a time when we are tempted to be discouraged when we are surrounded with the wickedness of the world, even among those who choose to follow other ways not taught through the writings of the apostles and prophets. It is a blessing to observe His people obeying Jesus and watching His

plan at work among His congregations. And, to be sure, His plan is working, for often we only need to open our eyes!

White Rock, NM congregation

Consider this—A number of years ago I began working with a congregation in White Rock, NM. This is a congregation of the Lord’s people who have chosen to mutually edify themselves, and they seemed to appreciate that I only wanted to encourage them in their work. So much so that they asked if I would be willing to help another congregation in Chama, New Mexico.

Chama is a small congregation, and the church at White Rock has offered to help pay a portion of my expenses to visit, and the brethren at Chama seem to be very receptive to my visits, so much so they have asked me to come on a regular basis. Christ’s plan at work? Exactly! It continues.

Other mutual ed congregations?

I was with the Chama congregation last Autumn on a

Lord’s Day, and they had a father and daughter visiting the area on a hunting trip. (There is lots of elk hunting in the area when in season.) After some discussion I found out he was one of three elders in the congregation of Clifffield, VA, and (wait for it . . .) they practice mutual edification!

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“[T]here are many more churches and brethren who practice mutual edification than we might think.”

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(Mutual edification is the term used for the process of brothers taking the role of teaching the congregation rather than a congregation hiring a Pulpit Minister to do the brothers’ work for them.)

I have since communicated with and spoken to this elder several times in addition to sharing in a conference call with all three elders. Apparently, they have practiced mutual edification for quite some time, and they have appreciated how the various brothers who have been willing

to shoulder this responsibility have grown as a result.

I am sure most of us are aware of the principle that those who teach naturally learn the most as a result of their own preparation and teaching. This principle is surely part of the Lord’s design and plan for His congregations.

However, I was a bit surprised to learn the elders of this congregation apparently have never heard of nor met an evangelist doing the kind of work that I and others are doing. They have only been acquainted with those who work as Pulpit Ministers of congregations.

And this has led to some interesting thoughts shared between us.

Working with the Clifffield, VA congregation

They appreciate the work I am doing here in the Southwest so much that they have asked how they might help my continual working with the Chama, NM congregation.

They have offered to pay my travel expenses to go to Chama more. While I am able to meet with Chama one Lord’s day every other month or so, there are only so many Lord’s Days available, and my other work does not allow more. So they have

proposed to pay my expenses to go one Wednesday each month.

Thanks to their desire to see the Lord’s kingdom prosper and His plan followed as well as their generosity, I started the Wednesday studies with Chama 3 months ago!

With all of this said, the Clifffield, VA congregation has asked me to visit them at least twice over the next 1½ years when I visit my father who lives in North Carolina, which is only about 100 miles away. I am looking forward that that opportunity!

The Lord’s plan works

I am sharing this with you in order to bring to your attention various and very encouraging points that are worth noting in regard to Christ, His plan and His people:

1.) It has been my and others’ observation and experience that **there are many more churches and brethren who practice mutual edification than we might think.** Most of them are simply unknown to us. But that is okay! They do not need to be known to us! They only need to be known by the Lord, for it is His notice that counts. So when we might be tempted to be like Elijah and think “I alone am left”, it is NOT true!

2.) The Lord’s plan works! Jesus prayed in John 17:21 “... *that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me.*”

When the Lord’s Christians have Christ motivating their hearts and minds, their emphasis and labors are going to be on the furtherance of His Kingdom.

3.) When we are busy doing the Lord’s work it will never be in vain as noted in Isaiah 55:11 “*So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it.*”

It is so easy to become discouraged when we cannot see the results that we “assume” should be there. It is not our plan. It is His! Serving the Lord is never in vain!

The Lord has set His plan in motion, and He has provided for His people to accomplish His will. We only need to follow His will and allow Christ and His plan to work in our lives. Let us not be discouraged. His victory is already assured! The only question for us is— will we be part of it?



Jay Graham
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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

- Evelyn Bennett had shingles and was unable to attend services for a couple of weeks. She is now able to get out.

May Birthdays

- None

May Anniversaries

- ★ 30 - John & Carol Smead
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Dean Avenue

Meeting times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

Location: 2907 Dean Ave., Des Moines, Iowa / P.O. Box 57398, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327

For information call: John McNeece (515) 263-9428

- John and Jessica Chapman are excited to announce they have purchased their first home in Newton, IA.
- Shawn Head has been suffering with abdominal pain and poor liver function. He had an upper GI and liver biopsy. It was determined he had liver inflammation caused by a medication he was taking.

- Please remember Mary Lou Allen. She continues to be treated for an allergy reaction that has affected her eyes.

May Birthdays

- ★ 20 Emily Dobberke
- ★ 26 Linda Head

May Anniversaries

- ★ 15 John & Jessica Chapman
 - ★ 17 Neal & Peg Warren
-

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

- **Worshiping with us this past month were :**
 - Hadley Miller
 - Van & Molly Gilmore & girls
- The church ladies enjoyed a baby shower for Tracy Head hosted by Judy Madden.
- Attending the wedding of Lauren Russell & Chisom Spencer in Quenemo,KS were Richard & Janet Negley as well as Justin & Tracy Head.

- Justin & Tracy attended church at Smart Road.
- Jean Negley traveled to Washington to welcome her new granddaughter Charlotte Carter born to Mark & Em Negley.

May Birthdays

- ★ 29 – Becky McCoy

May Anniversaries

- None

Martensdale

Meeting Times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 10985 44th Lane, Prole, Iowa (1.5 miles east of Martensdale, Iowa on Hwy. 92)
For information call: Duane Proudfit (515) 961-4470 or Mike Penick (515) 681-0279

- **Tom and Dianne Collier's daughter, Ciera Marshall, was baptized** Saturday, April 29th at Pleasant Hill and attended Sunday services at Martensdale. Ciera lives in Moore, Oklahoma with her husband Adam and their three boys.
- **Tanner George and Tiffany Parker announced their engagement!** We are all very happy for them!!
- **Maddy Hermon graduated from Simpson College** on April 28. Maddy has already accepted a teaching position as an art teacher with the Martensdale/St. Mary's School District for the 2018/2019 school year. Congratulations!
- Roger, Melissa, Ian and Savannah Bown attended services with Dick and Phyllis Bown while they were visiting.

- Other visitors this month have included Bethany Ford, Jordan Bown, Joyce Ingle, Nora Lee Ingle and LuAnn Woody.

May Birthdays

- ★ 6 – Theron Ingle
- ★ 14 – Jenna Wheeler
- ★ 21 – Joshua Soard
- ★ 27 – Allen Bown

May Anniversaries

- ★ May 9 -- Rodney & Alena Ingle
- ★ May 21 -- Drew & Courtney Teghtmeyer

Pleasant Hill

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 5091 E. University, Pleasant Hill, Iowa
Website: pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org
For information call: Bob Flack (515) 262-7329, Lowell Hermon (515) 989-0727, Mike Warner (515) 967-4529

- **Keep the date for our VBS, June 18-22.**
- **Don and Wanda Burkman will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Sunday June 3rd.** Their children will host their reception at the
Marriott Courtyard
2405 S.E. Creekview Drive
Ankeny, Iowa
2:00-5:00 p.m.
They are so thankful for all the many blessings received in those years.
- Keep Josh Brady in prayers as he is away from home. If you would like to send a card or letter

here is his address:

Brady Joshua SSGT

PSC 831 Box 65
FPO AE 09363

- On Sunday the 17th Wade Stanley will be speaking in the morning and the evening.
- Suzanne Harvey is still having some testing done.
- Steve Thompson (Mike & Shirley Warner son) and family were visiting with his parents. Steve got his biopsy results back. He will be going to Mayo for a treatment plan for sarcoma cancer. Prayers are appreciated.

- Justin Stevens had ruptured appendicitis. He had surgery on April 16th and spent a few days in Mercy hospital. He is now home and doing well.
- Congratulations to Kayley Zimmerman and Maddy Hermon on graduating from Simpson College.
- Connie Price has had 3 chemo treatments. After her 4th treatment in May they will do a scan to see how she is progressing. Keith Price is doing about the same.
- Margaret Franklin spent some time in Neb. Visiting with Christina her daughter.
- Marje Turnquist and sister were visiting family in Texas.
- Mike, Cindy and Ava Brady were in the Kansas City area. Ava was playing softball.

- Sharon Mineart was visiting with daughter Megan Stevens for a week-end.

Those that have been sick this month:

Nora Lee, Jamie, Taylor and Patrick Ingle. Kinnick Ingle, Betty Warren, the Needham family, Bob Flack, Bev Brady.

May Birthdays

- ★ 2 Fred Brady
- ★ 10 Lisa Williamson
- ★ 19 Alivia Pritchard
- ★ 20 Nora Lee Ingle
- ★ 27 Kinnick Ingle
- ★ 27 Maisie Pritchard
- ★ 29 Shirley Warner

May Anniversaries

- ★ 6 Dan & Amy Pritchard
- ★ 22 Tom & Fred Brady
- ★ 25 Steve & Nancy Brady

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

- Laura Dowdy and children visited family in Kentucky.
- Doug and Lisa Fiorentin and Trent and Leah Fiorentin were in Kansas City for a weekend.
- Jason and Staci Miller and children visited family in Carrollton, Missouri.
- Joy Cummings, Morgan and Casady visited family in Brookfield, Missouri.
- Lynnette Dowdy visited family in LaClede, Missouri.
- Among our visitors were: Kristine Salter, Valerie Burkman, and Sue Schreck.
- Gavin Burkman had the misfortune of breaking his wrist while playing soccer.
- Mariha Henle had outpatient surgery and is home recuperating.

- Lynnette Dowdy underwent foot surgery and will be unable to put any weight on it for 5 weeks.
- It was good to see Walter Daugherty back in services after a long absence.
- A group of 21 persons from Vandalia participated in preparing *Meals From The Heartland*, Saturday, April 28.

May Birthdays

- ★ 8 Easton Klein
- ★ 13 Dorothy VanMaanen
- ★ 15 Lucas Ingle
- ★ 23 Caleb Ingle
- ★ 23 Bob Guthrie
- ★ 25 Ethan Clark
- ★ 25 Micah Heartsill
- ★ 25 Charles Ingle
- ★ 26 Tim Burkman
- ★ 30 Greg Ingle

May Anniversaries

- ★ 13 Justin & Brittney Dowdy
- ★ 15 Alan & Pamela Skinner
- ★ 16 Jason & Staci Miller
- ★ 25 Greg & Margaret Ingle
- ★ 28 Bill & Bonnie Harkins

Main line Churches of Christ see the immense benefits of mutual edification vs their common practice of a paid "pulpit" preacher. Below is an excerpt from an article published in the *Christian Chronicle* on the topic of mutual edification.



No minister? Look to God and members instead

By: David May
December 12, 2008

"We tend to think of having a located preacher as a "must" for a growing or stable congregation. Without one we feel that we are somehow incomplete. But this is not the Bible picture.

"Acts 14 describes the approach Paul and his missionary friends took to grow churches.

- First they preached the gospel and stood against opposition (verses 1-3).
- Then they moved on to preach in other places (verses 5-7),
- But came back to encourage and strengthen the church (verses 21 and 22).
- They appointed elders for each church, prayed, fasted, and commended them to the Lord (verse 23).
- Finally they went home to Antioch to report what the Lord had done (verses 26-27).

"There is no indication that the missionaries helped the new church find a preacher or raise the money to support one - or that the congregation ever had one.

"I encourage churches to view being without a preacher as a blessing and an opportunity. When a church has no preacher the responsibility for the health of the congregation falls on the congregation and God.

"People step up and do what is necessary when the responsibility is theirs. When there is a located preacher the temptation in our busy world is to hope the preacher will get it done."

David May is retired from public social services and is a member of a small congregation in Minnesota.

He is the author of *"A Call to Arms! Out of the Pews and Into the Streets."*

<https://christianchronicle.org/no-minister-look-to-god-and-members-instead/>

MUTUAL EDIFICATION CHURCHES

Mutual edification churches comprise the smallest segment of non-mainstream congregations. ⁽¹⁾The directory lists 124 of these congregations, mostly in the Midwest . . . mutual edification churches believe in allowing the men of the congregation to preach and lead singing, rather than hiring exclusive "preachers."

"Mutual edification or ministry to us means involving the members in an active ministry," said Barry Poyner, an elder at the Kirksville, Mo., church and author of the book *One Another Christianity: Mutual Edification*. I'm persuaded we are happier when active. Mutual edification is a Bible-centered practice that could free up our 'full-time' ministers to do the work of evangelizing — reaching lost souls."

Source: The Christian Chronicle, March 1, 2007, Ross, Bobby Jr , <https://christianchronicle.org/who-are-we>

⁽¹⁾ Directory: The Churches of Christ in the United States, <https://www.21stcc.com/ccusa/>