



# Lighthouse of Iowa

*Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ*

July 2022

## *Maybe*

I heard a story recently entitled, "Maybe." I do not know if it is a true story, but it does teach a valuable lesson for the Lord's people, that I would like to share with you.

It seems there was a farmer that had a family to care for. At a very crucial time for planting, his one horse that he used for planting and harvesting as well as other work around his farm ran away. His neighbors came and offered their pity, for they knew the farmer would not be able to plant his fields this coming year. For planting time was very close and he had no other means to plant his crops. His friends all said, "We are all so sorry for your loss. This is a horrible turn of events, and you now have no way to plant your crops and feed your family." The farmer replied simply, "Maybe."

After a couple of days, the farmer's horse returned with 7 other horses in tow, to which the farmer gladly used for his own farm work, for no one knew where they had come from.

A few weeks later, as his son was using the horses to plant seed, one bolted and left the son on the ground writhing in pain, for he had suffered a broken leg and hip due to the fall. The same neighbors came again and cried, "How horrible! Now you have lost a valuable asset to plant your crops!" The farmer simply replied, "Maybe."

A few days later, an army came by to force his son to go to war with them. The war had not been going very well and the casualty rate was well above 95%, for his son would most assuredly die in the fighting. Of course, the son could not fight in his condition, and the army went on their way without the farmer's son. His son later was able to regain much of his ability, and he helped his father harvest the crops when they were ready.

Do you get the point of the story? Just because bad things happen to us does not necessarily mean they are always for the worse. Life happens. Often, we need to have the same perspective this farmer had. We should not just assume the outcome is terrible!

Sometimes, the outcome might be a blessing in disguise as it was for this farmer!

The passage quoted above teaches that all things ultimately will work together for our good. We certainly cannot see the end result, for we cannot read the future. I am

confident the Lord does and can see the future. He may allow certain things to happen to us, but if we remain faithful to our God we can gain from such bad circumstances.

If we hold true to our faith, we can always grow from the experience, no matter how bad it may appear. And as the earthly proverb says, "We often cannot see the forest for the trees." As humans with human frailties, we live in the flesh. We cannot always see the good that can happen from bad things.

I do not think the Patriarch Joseph understood at the time why the Lord allowed his brothers to sell him into bondage or why he was cast into prison for a crime he did not commit. However, later on, he did, at least after he was able to reunite with his father and brothers.

Remember the conversation Joseph had with his brothers, after their father had passed on - Genesis 50:19-21 Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in the place of God? 20 But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive. 21 Now therefore, do not be afraid; I will provide for you and your little ones." And he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Joseph came to understand it all happened to him for his eventual good. And his brothers must have finally understood their family would now live through the drought and accompanying famine by the plan of their God.

When bad things happen to us, we should not assume the end result will be a harm to us or our lives. They may indeed work out as a great blessing! As faithful children of the Lord, the Lord is always working for our eventual betterment. He always desires we grow and draw closer to Him and His plan. He always has our eventual best interest in mind. And I am convinced He works things out accordingly, if we remember the promise in the scripture at the beginning of this article.

~ Jay Graham



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## Chariton

**Meeting times:** Sundays: 10:00 a.m. (no evening services)

**Location:** Call for information.

**For information call:** Albert Schreck (641) 535-2381 or Brian Schreck (641) 203-2137

☆ Quiet month at Chariton.



### July Birthdays

- None

### July Anniversaries

- None

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## Dean Avenue

**Meeting times:** Sundays: 9:30 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 6:30 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

- Visitors this month were: Elsie Chapman, Charlie & Maverick Head, Paxon Boozell and Shawn Head.
- Jim Meek is having respiratory problems and is on oxygen most of the time.
- Candy Meek has been taking radiation for cancer spots on her lungs.
- Shawn Head has been having liver problems again and has been having testing.
- Cathy Meek has been home with pneumonia.
- David Warren is having radiation treatments for prostate cancer.
- Johnie & Donna McNeece traveled to Wisconsin to attend their grandson's wedding.

- Bill & Shirley McNeece traveled to Texas to attend their granddaughter's graduation.
- Ron & Karma vacationed in Colorado.
- Matt & Mary Dobberke vacationed in Table Rock.

### July Birthdays

- ☆ 13 Charlie Kelsey
- ☆ 16 Jessica Strable
- ☆ 22 Cathy James

### July Anniversaries

- ☆ 29 Jim & Candy Meek

## Fairview

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

☆ Quiet month at Clarinda.



### July Birthdays

- None

### July Anniversary

- Non

## Martensdale

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

- The next **Men's Saturday Morning Coffee** is coming up on **July 9<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>** @ 10:00 A.M.-ish. Smokey Row Coffee Company 1910 Cottage Grove, Des Moines, IA <https://smokeyrow.com/stores/des-moines>



- We plan to use our website for evangelistic efforts to reach out to our communities. We will be updating and adding content as we go. Many thanks to Rodney Ingle and Zach Wheeler. [martensdalechurchofchrist.com](http://martensdalechurchofchrist.com)

- Building maintenance is coming along well:
  - 1.) Grinding down concrete on basement floor, filling cracks, and applying slip resistant epoxy coating is completed and looks beautiful!
  - 2.) Installing concrete steps and sidewalk at the front of the building is in process.
  - 3.) Remove and replace exterior siding on the north and the east side of the building near completion.

### Visitors:

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### July Birthdays

- ☆ 03 – Aléna Ingel
- ☆ 05 – Rodney Ingel
- ☆ 24 – Millie Teghtmeyer

### July Anniversaries

- None



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Copies of the *Lighthouse of Iowa* can be found at the following two Church websites:

**Vandalia Church of Christ:** <https://vandaliacoc.com/lighthouse-of-iowa.html>

**Pleasant Hill Church of Christ:** <http://www.pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org> - Lighthouse of Iowa

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## Pleasant Hill

**Meeting Times:** Sundays: 9:30 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m.

**Location:** 5091 E. University, Pleasant Hill, Iowa

**Website:** [pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org](http://pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org)

**Contacts:** Mike Warner 515-967-4529 / Marty Williamson 515-556-2394 / Marc Hermon 515- 554-3567

☆ Quiet month at Pleasant Hill.



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## Vandalia

**Meeting Times:** Sunday: 9:45 a.m. and Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** 2.5 miles east of Runnells, Iowa on F70, then 1 mile north on 131st St.

**For information call:** Greg Ingle (515) 994-2824 or Charles Ingle (515) 238-3316

**Website:** <https://vandaliacoc.co>

- We are rejoicing for we have a new brother in Christ!!!! Tyrell Klein was baptized July 24 in the family swimming pool! So happy for Tyrell!
- We were blessed with many brothers and sisters in Christ who attended our July Meeting on the 11 th and 12 th . There were many good lessons, lots of good fellowship, and of course, plenty of good food to enjoy!
- Matt, Sarah and Ethan Clark spent a few days in St. Louis to take in a Cardinals game and do some sightseeing. Later in the month, Justin & Brittney Dowdy and Carson and Lillian also went to St. Louis for a Cardinals game.
- Doug & Lisa Fiorentin, Jason & Staci Miller and Allison and Isaac went to Florida for several days to enjoy Disney World.
- Kelsey Fiorentin has taken her nursing state boards and will have to wait six weeks for the results.

- Erin Ingle had gall bladder surgery on the 22 nd and is doing very well with her recovery.
- Kiana Klein auditioned and was chosen to sing the Star-Spangled Banner at Principal Park for a Cubs game on July 14. She will be singing for another game at Principal Park on July 12. Quite an honor!
- Visitors this month were: Chelsie Rankin; Sue Schreck; Brandy McPhillips and daughter, Maddie.



### July Birthdays

- ☆ 1 Sarah Clark
- ☆ 1 Tonya Guthrie
- ☆ 16 Corin Heartsill
- ☆ 24 Drew Cummings
- ☆ 25 Tyrell Klein

### July Anniversaries

- ☆ 10 Matt & Sarah Clark
- ☆ 14 Bruce & Kelsey Fiorentin

# Letter from Benjamin Franklin to Ezra Stiles

Philadelphia 1790

This was Franklin's final and most famous description his personal faith. He died the next month, on April 17, at the age of 85. Ezra Stiles was President of Yale College.

Philada March 9. 1790

Reverend and Dear Sir,

I received your kind Letter of Jany 28, and am glad you have at length received the Portraits of Govr Yale from his Family, and deposited it in the Colledge Library. He was a great and good Man, and has the Merit of doing infinite Service to your Country by his Munificence to that Institution. The Honour you propose doing me by placing in the same Room with his, is much too great for my Deserts; but you always had a Partiality for me, and to that it must be ascribed.

I am however too much obliged to Yale College, the first learned Society that took Notice of me, and adorned me with its Honours, to refuse a Request that comes from it thro' so esteemed a Friend. But I do not think any one of the Portraits you mention as in my Possession worthy of the Place and Company you propose to place it in. You have an excellent Artist lately arrived. If he will undertake to make one for you, I shall cheerfully pay the Expence: But he must not long delay setting about it, or I may slip thro' his Fingers, for I am now in my 85th Year's and very infirm.

I send with this a very learned Work, (as it seems to me) on the antient Samaritan Coins, lately printed in Spain, and at least curious for the Beauty of the Impression. Please to accept it for your Colledge Library. I have subscribed for the Encyclopedia now printing here, with the Intention of presenting it to the Colledge; I shall probably depart before the Work is finished, but shall leave Directions for its Continuance to the End. With this you will receive some of the first Numbers.

**You desire to know something of my Religion.** It is the first time I have been questioned upon it: But I do not take your Curiosity amiss, and shall endeavour in a few Words to gratify it.

**Here is my Creed:** I believe in one God, Creator of the Universe. That He governs it by his Providence. That he ought to be worshipped. That the most acceptable Service we can render to him, is doing Good to his other Children. That the Soul of Man is immortal, and will be treated with Justice in another Life respecting its Conduct in this. These I take to be the fundamental Principles of all sound Religion, and I regard them as you do, in whatever Sect I meet with them.

*As to Jesus of Nazareth, my Opinion of whom you particularly desire, I think the System of Morals and his Religion as he left them to us, the best the World ever saw, or is likely to*

*see; but I apprehend it has received various corrupting Changes, and I have with most of the present Dissenters in England, some Doubts as to his Divinity: tho' it is a Question I do not dogmatise upon, having never studied it, and think it needless to busy myself with it now, when I expect soon an Opportunity of knowing the Truth with less Trouble.*

I see no harm however in its being believed, if that Belief has the good Consequence as probably it has, of making his Doctrines more respected and better observed, especially as I do not perceive that the Supreme takes it amiss, by distinguishing the Believers, in his Government of the World, with any particular Marks of his Displeasure.

**I shall only add respecting myself, that having experienced the Goodness of that Being,** in conducting me prosperously thro' a long Life, I have no doubt of its Continuance in the next, tho' without the smallest Conceit of meriting such Goodness.

My Sentiments in this Head you will see in the Copy of an old Letter enclosed, which I wrote in answer to one from a zealous Religionist whom I had relieved in a paralytic Case by Electricity, and who being afraid I should grow proud upon it, sent me his serious, tho' rather impertinent, Cautions. I send you also the Copy of another Letter, which will shew something of my Disposition relating to Religion. With great and sincere Esteem and Affection, I am, Dear Sir, Your obliged old Friend and most obedient humble Servant

*B Franklin*

p.s. Had not your Colledge some Present of Books from the King of France? Please to let me know if you had an Expectation given you of more, and the Nature of that Expectation. I have a Reason for the Enquiry.

(I confide, that you will not expose me to Criticism and Censure by publishing any part of this Communication to you. I have ever let others enjoy their religious Sentiments, without reflecting on them for those that appeared to me insupportable and even absurd. All Sects here, and we have a great Variety, have experienced my Good will in assisting them with Subscriptions for building their new Places of Worship, and as I have never opposed any of their Doctrines I hope to go out of the World in Peace with them all.)