



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

November 2021

“Believers” ?

By Jay Graham

*“And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd.”
~ John 10:16 16*

It is so easy to fall into what I call the “Elijah Syndrome”. That is from the words of Elijah in 1 Kings 19:14 14 And he said, *“I have been very zealous for the LORD God of hosts; because the children of Israel have forsaken Your covenant, torn down Your altars, and killed Your prophets with the sword. I alone am left; and they seek to take my life.”*

We tend to look around us at the confusion of our religious community and think we are the only faithful of the Lord’s people. Based on what? What we see? As if we have the spiritual sight of the Lord who does know all His people? We certainly do not!

From my earlier trips to the Philippians, I am ashamed to say that I was surprised to find Christians who were practicing faithfully following the Lord and His Word. I came to realize that I should have not been surprised. After all, they had the same Word of God I have access to. They had the same Scriptures that we have. Why should I have been surprised? It was a humbling lesson for me to be sure.

Some time ago, I read of a group of individuals in the midst of one of the most oppressive societies on the planet. They lived in a country in which it is against the law to be a Christian, and especially, to have a Bible. They were a group of individuals reading their one copy of the Scriptures in their care. They were in a boat quite a distance from the shore in a lake. They were meeting on a boat in the middle of a lake to allow themselves plenty of warning in case the authorities observed them and came out to see what they were doing. In this particular society, they would be sent to prison or even killed if they were discovered by the authorities. However, they were willing to risk such for the privilege of reading from God’s Divine Word!

It was my understanding, as they were sharing their copy of the Scriptures and reading it, they observed a boat coming toward them. They hastily stowed the Book away and got out some fishing gear to make it appear as if they were fishing. As the boat drew closer, they realized it was not an official boat of the government. As the boat hailed them and asked permission to tie up to them, they realized it was a fellow believer who had a box full of Bibles for them. What a blessing!

I have often thought about this group of individuals who were willing to risk their lives in order to read from God’s Word. Were they brothers and sisters of the churches of Christ?

Obviously, I cannot know for sure. However, I feel I can consider them at least as believers of the Lord. Why else were they willing to die for the ability to do what we can so easily do in our society? What were they searching for? Isn’t it obvious? They were searching the Scriptures for something. They were not looking for ball scores or for how to repair an appliance or for anything other than what God required from them!

This is why I can so easily assume they were at least believers if not even immersed Christians.

At the very least, they must have been searching for God in His word. They were not much different than the Bereans in Acts 17:10-15! Even if they had not yet come to the conclusion they needed to repent and be immersed in the name of the Lord Jesus as noted in Acts 2:38, they were searching for something.

Therefore, I will easily assume they were believers in the Lord on some level. As long as they continued to search the Scriptures,

they would eventually discover everything the Lord would require of them. Obviously, they were very well intentioned, and their search was for Truth as only Jesus can be revealed as through those same Scriptures. If they were not brethren at the time, they were headed toward that great goal. They were willing to risk their lives for this search. That is why I can easily consider them believers and maybe even Christians.

The point is we should not be surprised to read of such people. Recall the words of Jesus in John 4:34-35 34:

“My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me, and to finish His work. 35 Do you not say, ‘There are still four

months and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest!”

I am convinced Jesus is speaking to a perpetual circumstance in which there will always be those with soft and sincere hearts who are searching for the Lord’s will and ways. The fact that these believers were searching from God’s Word with soft and sincere hearts. They did this with the very same Word that we have. Why else would they be willing to die while making the attempt?

The next time you are tempted to be in despair as Elijah was, the next time you think we are the

only faithful of the Lord in this vast world, check your thoughts.

Rather than feel sorry for yourself, pray for those you do not know who may indeed be searching for the same God you have already found. Ask God to open doors of opportunity, as the apostle Paul did, that you might in some manner be a help to those willing to search for what you have already been privileged to find. God’s mercy does indeed continue forever!



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.



November Birthdays

☆ 16 – Tammy Schreck

November Anniversaries

- None

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

- A life celebration for Kim Lanc, Debbie Wilkins’ sister, was given by Terry Lanc at their home in Ottawa, IL. Debbie and David attended with their sons. Debbie said it was a beautiful day filled with good memories.

- Greg and Linda Head traveled to Hendersonville, Nevada to visit their son, Shawn, who is having a liver biopsy. The diagnosis of the liver biopsy is Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis. Shawn is here now to visit and to see doctors

November 2021

- Linda Head had testing on her pacemaker, and it was determined she needed a new generator. This has been done, and she is doing good.
- Tammy Fitzgerald finished her skilled rehab after having her leg amputated below the knee from a bone infection and is home. She is discouraged and needs prayers.
- Cathy Meek has been sick with bronchitis.
- Karma Sharp and Pam Climpson were sick from after effects of the Covid-19 booster.

- Visitors: Candy Meek, Brita, Charlie and Maverick Head, Elsie Chapman and Shawn Head.

November Birthdays

- ☆ 03 Mary Dobberke
- ☆ 18 Karma Sharp

November Anniversaries

- ☆ 02 Skip & Risa Schamel

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

- Quiet month at Fairview.

November Birthdays

- None

November Anniversary

- None

Martensdale

Meeting Times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

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

- Dick and Phyllis Bown attended the wedding of their grandson, David Stanley to Grace Sandefer, on October 2.
- Marlene Bown was back visiting with her daughter, LuAnn Woody and friend, Kathy Tutterow.
- Several of us traveled to Missouri to attend the wedding of Jordan Bown to Evan Haas on October 16.
- Visitors this month: Dave and Joyce Ingle; Randy and Laura Tegtmeyer; Jordan Bown and Pam Deckler's cousin, Kathy.

November Birthdays

- ☆ 14 – Finneas Wheeler
- ☆ 16 – Christy Henderson

November Anniversaries

- ☆ 13 – Charlie & Pam Deckler (1971)
- ☆ 18 – Tom & Dianne Collier (1994)

Pleasant Hill

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

Location: 5091 E. University, Pleasant Hill, Iowa

Website: pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org

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

- On October 23 Justin & Brittney Dowdy hosted ITBS at Vandalia Church of Christ. Marc taught a lesson on The Fruit of the Spirit. Kids are invited to bring a dessert to share. There was an ITBS Challenge! All Bible students came prepared with nine



Scriptures which showed how Jesus demonstrated each of the nine fruits of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control. (Galatians 5: 22-23) Special heartfelt gratitude to the Dowdy's for their generous hospitality, fun games, and wonderful meal!

- Alivia Pritchard fractured her shoulder playing soccer. Prayers are appreciated for her speedy recovery!
- Let's lift Karla & Nora Lee Ingle up in constant prayer and continue to put our confidence in the Great Physician.
- On Oct. 25 Karla Fetters was taken by ambulance to Iowa Methodist to be treated for COVID pneumonia. Please shower Karla with encouragement and scriptures through e-cards. She is Karla in room 711, Iowa Methodist.
- On Oct. 25 paramedics transported Nora Lee Ingle to the ER due to low oxygen levels. This evening Nora Lee was admitted to Cass Regional Hospital in Harrisonville, MO to be treated for COVID pneumonia. Please send cards to the Morris home: 19410 E State Rt P; Pleasant Hill, MO 64080-9155

- Praise God! Ryan Zinnel, Ryan, Jamie, Taylor Ingle are all out of quarantine and feeling better following COVID.
- Randy Ingle was diagnosed with a blood clot and had another round in the ER for another allergic reaction following his hospitalization. I am the Lord who heals you! Exodus 15:6
- Shirley Warner's sister-in-law, Marcia, passed away on Wednesday, October 6. Shirley and son, Stephen, were able to attend her visitation and funeral in Missouri on Monday and Tuesday. Mike was suffering from sinus infection that week.
- Tom Brady has had several good days, all glory to God! We're grateful for God's continued mercy on this beloved servant.
- JC & Melanie Castro traveled in their bus east for the winter. They stopped in Ohio to visit brethren and are currently with family in West Virginia. We are grateful for their safe travels.
- Linda Garland sold her property in Altoona and moved to Pennsylvania. Many thanks to Pat Thompson for organizing a going-away party for Linda with sisters from Pleasant Hill.
- Suzanne Harvey had a first round of cataract surgery Oct. 26.
- We have been thankful to have the following visitors worship with us Sunday mornings: Margaret Harris, Justin Baugh and Kim Horak.
- Save The Date! Next ITBS**, God willing, is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 13 at 4 p.m. Ayden and Madison Twaddell will be hosting at their home in Indianola. Alan Klein will teach the Bible lesson.



November Birthdays

- ☆ 11/3 – Daniel Suhr, Melanie Castro, Nick Hermon
- ☆ 11/8 – Tammy Brady
- ☆ 11/17 – Patrick Ingle
- ☆ 11/18 – Ryan Ingle

- ☆ 11/20 – Marge Flack, Marty Williamson
- ☆ 11/26 – Larry Brady

November Anniversaries

None

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) 966-2537

Website: <https://vandaliacoc.com>

- Joy Cummings has an appointment at Mayo for a second opinion on November 16. Continued prayers for her and her family as they make important decisions.
- Charles Ingle severely injured his left eye in early November while adjusting a trailer hitch. He has had two surgeries at the University of Iowa hospital and is recovering slowly. At this time, he can only see light and some movement with the injured eye, but the surgeon is hopeful that over the next several months he will regain more vision as the eye heals. Charles is thankful for God's help and greatly appreciates everyone's prayers.
- Alan and Shonya Klein and family enjoyed a trip to Oklahoma for a few days.
- Greg Ingle had surgery for removal of a torn meniscus and is getting along fine.

- Josie Fiorentin was in the hospital for a few days with Reactive Airway disease but is home now.
- Visitors in November were: Chelsie Rankin, Sue Schreck, Sam McDonald, Wes Kirscher, Jim Emery, and Maryann Homan.



November Birthdays

- | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| ☆ 2 Ellie Wiedemeier | ☆ 3 Tina Hinckley |
| ☆ 7 Isaac Miller | ☆ 9 Abigail Dille |
| ☆ 14 Adaline Dowdy | ☆ 14 Alexander Dowdy |
| ☆ 15 Cheyenne Goode | ☆ 15 Gavin Burkman |
| ☆ 16 Morgan Cummings | ☆ 16 Erin Ingle |
| ☆ 17 Nancy Clark | ☆ 24 Angela Ingle |
| ☆ 29 Lynnette Dowdy | ☆ 29 Doug Fiorentin |
| ☆ 30 Brett Cole | |

November Anniversaries

- ☆ 13 Richard & Mary Ellen Goode

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/library.php>

(select *Iowa Lighthouse* under the Library tab)

Thanksgiving Proclamation

By the President of the United States of America.

at the City of New-York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789

Whereas it is the duty of all Nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey his will, to be grateful for his benefits, and humbly to implore his protection and favor—and whereas both Houses of Congress have by their joint Committee requested me “to recommend to the People of the United States a day of public thanksgiving and prayer to be observed by acknowledging with grateful hearts the many signal favors of Almighty God especially by affording them an opportunity peaceably to establish a form of government for their safety and happiness.”

Now therefore I do recommend and assign Thursday the 26th day of November next to be devoted by the People of these States to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be—That we may then all unite in rendering unto him our sincere and humble thanks—for his kind care and protection of the People of this Country previous to their becoming a Nation—for the signal and manifold mercies, and the favorable interpositions of his Providence which we experienced in the course and conclusion of the late war—for the great degree of tranquillity, union, and plenty, which we have since enjoyed—for the peaceable and rational manner, in which we have been enabled to establish constitutions of government for our safety and happiness, and particularly the national One now lately instituted—for the civil and religious liberty with which we are blessed; and the means we have of acquiring and diffusing useful knowledge; and in general for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer upon us.

[A]nd also that we may then unite in most humbly offering our prayers and supplications to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations and beseech him to pardon our national and other transgressions—to enable us all, whether in public or private stations, to perform our several and relative duties properly and punctually—to render our national government a blessing to all the people, by constantly being a Government of wise, just, and constitutional laws, discreetly and faithfully executed and obeyed—to protect and guide all Sovereigns and Nations (especially such as have shewn kindness unto us) and to bless them with good government, peace, and concord—to promote the knowledge and practice of true religion and virtue, and the encrease of science among them and us—and generally to grant unto all Mankind such a degree of temporal prosperity as he alone knows to be best.

Given under my hand at the City of New-York the third day of October in the year of our Lord 1789.

~ Go. Washington