



# Lighthouse of Iowa

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

February 2025

## Evangelist Jay Graham Report 2025

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Lord has blessed us once again to live into another year. May we work to glorify His name throughout. The Lord is good. He continues to bless and grant us His Grace and Peace. As we begin this new year here in America's Great Southwest, I thought it was time for me to write you and keep you abreast of our efforts in His Kingdom. I am continuing to work, primarily with six congregations here in the Southwest.

The Lord continues to bless the Williams congregation. As usual, our numbers have dwindled in the midst of winter. We average probably 10 to fifteen on Lord's Days.

Brothers Peter Espitia and Larry Brice take the bulk of the teaching responsibilities, and I try to help when I am here, which is usually one Lord's Day and one or two Wednesdays per month. When I am teaching the class, I have been going through the three letters of John, and we are almost finished.

Ryan and Lydia's children are a bright spot for the congregation, as young children often are. Yes, they are a bit noisy, as children naturally are. But I am sure, for those of you who have been in congregations without children, having children is generally a great blessing. Highlighting this point—This past Lord's Day Jayce (5 years) was showing everyone how he lost his first tooth. The brothers and sisters were amused! We do have one resident teenage sister, Shea.

The brothers and sisters of the Huachuca City, AZ congregation continue to worship the Lord in spirit and truth. Our brother Dennis Richter continues to take the bulk of the responsibilities, though he does have the help of Matthew, a brother who attends regularly from the Tucson area.

They have also been blessed to have an older couple who have been attending recently. This is a brother who has been an elder of another congregation, and due to their age, they feel they needed to make their drive shorter. I believe they will be a great blessing to the congregation.

I try to be with them one Lord's Day and one Wednesday each month. When I am there, I have been teaching on various topics including the books of Hebrews, Luke and the Revelation letter at their request. They continue to show much faith as they work to show the Light of the Lord to their neighbors and friends.

They are also blessed with Cody Gentry, of the Pima congregation, bringing lessons at Huachuca City on a regular basis.

The Pima, AZ congregation continues to worship the Lord regularly. As has been the case for many years now, they meet in Dave and Janet Gentry's home. The Gentrys show much hospitality to the brothers and sisters as they provide meals regularly as well as a comfortable place to meet. I try to be with them one Lord's Day and one Thursday evening each month. I am continuing to teach on the history found in the Old Testament as well as the three letters of John.

Though the church at Pima is also few in number, they are blessed with 4 brothers who teach! They also are working diligently to show the Light of the Lord to their friends and neighbors.

I am continuing to meet with the church at Chama, NM. They also are few in number, especially during the winter months, but they have much faith!

The Tafoya family make up most of the brethren. They have a woman who visits regularly and is a friend of

Toni's. Thus far she seems very receptive to the seed being planted in her heart.

She has been reading and studying the Scriptures recently and was present last Lord's Day when I was there. She seemed very attentive and interested in my lesson from Acts chapter 2. I announced when I hoped to be with them next, and after the meeting she told me she was looking forward to my return. I try to be with them one Lord's Day and one Thursday each month.

The brothers and sisters at White Rock, NM continue to worship the Lord in spirit and truth. The congregation has lost a number of teachers over the past several years who moved away.

They have several faithful brothers to carry on the teaching and leading responsibilities still. I try to be with them one Lord's Day and one Wednesday every three months or so. I have been teaching on the Lord's "Sermon on the Mount" as well as other topics when I am with them. They also are striving to show the Light of the Lord to their neighbors and friends.

I continue to meet with the congregation at Long Beach, CA. They continue to be led by their two elders, Doug McKenzie and Michael Manning. I try to be with them one Lord's Day every other month or so. I have been teaching on a parallel study of the Ephesian and Colossian Letter as well as other topics. I always enjoy the Manning

hospitality when I am with them. They have been blessed with a number of new attendees over the past 6 months or so. These visitors are very attentive to the teaching of the body.

I have no doubt good seed is being planted. May the Lord grant an increase!

Oh, FYI-- I have been in contact with Michael Manning in regard to the horrible fires in LA county. These fires are not directly affecting the Long Beach church or any of the other congregations I work with in Southern California. I have learned they have devastated 2 churches of Christ in LA. If you desire to know how you might help, I can get you some information if you

desire. Be aware, I know little to nothing of these congregations. I only know there are brothers and sisters who are suffering. Personally, I do not believe this is a time to argue doctrine. Act as your consciences dictate.

I also have two virtual studies with two young brothers. Trent Fiorentin, of the Vandalia, IA congregation, is looking to get into the work of an evangelist. We have been studying for almost 3 years now at His elders' suggestion. I try to study with him usually two times each month.

Recently I have begun studying with Corbin Tutterow, of the Prince Road congregation, for the past two months at His elders' suggestion. Corbin is considering the work of an evangelist. Both of these are fine younger brothers. I pray the Lord will open doors of opportunities as to their interest in His Kingdom.

I also write several articles a month for various congregations. I pray these will be edifying to brothers and sisters, and I pray they will work as seed in the hearts of those who read them who are not yet Christians.

In my last report I informed you of our new address at the bottom of this letter. We have settled into the house the Lord has provided for us over the past several months.

Thank you for your very gracious support and prayers. May God continue to bless you as you each labor in your portion of His vineyard.

**Jay H Graham**  
899 Wells Fargo Dr.  
Williams, AZ 86046  
928-380-8243  
jayhgraham@live.com

Love,

Jay

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## Chariton

**Meeting times:** Sundays: 10:00 a.m.

**Location:** Call for information.

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

- Quiet month in Chariton.



### February Birthdays

☆ None

### February 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

- **Trent and Leah Fiorentin** met with us on Sunday. Trent gave us an excellent lesson on Salvation from God.
- **Chamille Laymon's mother** passed away on January 4, 2024. She spent her mother's last days with her at hospice.

### We have had quite a bit of sickness last month:

- **Greg Head** had bronchitis.
- **Shawn Head** had pneumonia.
- **Peg Warren** is at home receiving physical therapy for her back pain. She would love cards.
- **Pam Climpson** has had a right knee replacement. She is on schedule for recovery, but is still in pain.

- **Jamie Hayes** has moved back home to Iowa. He is currently staying at his mom's, Risa Schamel..

### February Birthdays

- ☆ 05 Danielle Strable
- ☆ 08 Johnie McNeece
- ☆ 16 Bill McNeece
- ☆ 24 Payton Thatcher
- ☆ 25 Frances Hawthorne
- ☆ 25 Jetzabel Higgins

### February Anniversaries

- None

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## Fairview

**Meeting times:** Sundays: 10:00 a.m.

**Location:** 1001 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> St, Clarinda, Iowa 51632

**For information call:** Richard Negley (712)695-9001 or Marvin Negley (712)303-7106

- Quiet month at Fairview.

### February Birthdays:

☆ None

### February Anniversaries:

☆ None

# 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

- **Dave and Christy Henderson** hosted a New Years Eve gathering at their house on December 31st. A great time was had by all!



## February Birthdays

- None

## February Anniversaries

- ☆ Allen & Teresa Bown - February 9
- ☆ Bill & Wendy Hounsom - February 20.



# 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

## Announcements:

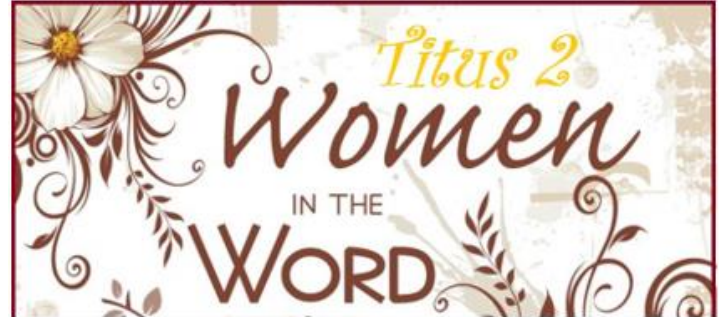
### ♥ Heartfelt Love & Prayers:

- Larry & Bev Brady are spending the next month in Florida.
- Congratulations to Nick & Kayley Hermon they are officially home owners in Indianola!
- Praise God! Han Felice’s hernia surgery this month was successful.
- Hallelujah! Mike Brady’s surgery and recovery is on track. Let’s continue to lift him up in prayer and encouragement.
- “For This Child I Prayed!” Congratulations to Ayden and Madison Twaddell—they are expecting their third child! God willing, Maddy will deliver the baby via C-section the first week of April.

## Women in the Word:



- Pleasant Hill ladies enjoyed their first *Women in the Word* gathering this January! Heartfelt thanks to our teachers, Suzanne Harvey, Rosanne Van Vleet, and Pat Thompson! Suzanne’s thought-provoking devotional was about Encouragement! After we searched scriptures, Rosie and Pat spurred us on with a workshop in creating handmade cards. MANY thanks to all 27 who attended – your presence was a delight & great encouragement!! 1 Thess. 5:11.



- **Iowa Traveling Bible Study** met for the first time in 2025 at the Klein home this past January. It was a great turnout! Bible students had a lesson taught by Alan about “integrity.” After the study, all the kids had fun participating in group activities and spending time with each other. God willing, the next ITBS will be held at Zach & Jenna Wheeler’s home in Indianola on February 22 @ 4 p.m.



## February Birthdays

- ☆ Joyce Jones – 2/4
- ☆ Max Flickinger – 2/5
- ☆ Marc Hermon – 2/6
- ☆ Audra Needham – 2/14
- ☆ Marje Turnquist – 2/23

## February Anniversaries

- None

# Vandalia

**Meeting Times:** Sunday: 9:30 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.com>

- **The family of Marvin and Melda Ingle** are planning a huge vintage glassware and décor sale held at Marvin and Melda's house, 11067 Washington St., Prairie City, IA 50228 for several days, February 27-March 1, hours 8 AM-5 PM each day. This is Marvin's lifelong collection of dishes, records, frames, and much more! Please call Charles Ingle 515-238-3316 for more information.
- **Walter Daugherty** will be celebrating **his 101st birthday** on Feb. 2. He was taken out for lunch on Sunday and then later in the day, several members came to the nursing home to sing for him and the other residents. Walter's address at the nursing home is: Altoona Nursing & Rehab, 200 7th Ave. SW, Altoona, IA 50009---he LOVES getting cards!
- **Emily Noelle Heartsill was born December 29th**, the daughter of Micah and Briana Heartsill. Corwin, Reuben, Elsie and Rachl are proud big brothers and sisters. Because of all the illnesses during January, she finally got to attend her first church service January 26th for all to officially meet her!
- **Charity Klein** had toe surgery after an injury and wore a boot for several weeks---doing much better now.
- **Nathan Fiorentin** has been having back problems and he has a dr appt on February 5th to try to get some answers. Prayers are appreciated for him and Erica and family.

- On January 9th, several ladies met at **Shonya Klein's** home for a meal, fellowship, and to watch and marriage video. On January 30th, several ladies met again and made freezer meals.
- **Trent Fiorentin** is planning a VBS to be held at the Vandalia building on the weekend of April 5 and 6.
- **Visitors this month:** Randy and Bobbi Owens and girls.



## February Birthdays

- 2 Walter Daugherty
- 2 Reuben Heartsill
- 9 Bruce Fiorentin
- 16 Derek Ingle
- 20 James Dowdy
- 21 Laura Dowdy
- 26 Amy Ingle
- 27 Shelby Ingle
- 28 Briana Heartsill

## February Anniversaries

- ☆ None

# February

**Unlike** some months of the year named after Roman gods or emperors, February is different. Instead, it is named after the **Roman**



**festival of purification called "Februa,"** which occurred on the 15<sup>th</sup> of that month, meaning the name essentially translates to "*the month of cleansing.*"

It is often mistakenly assumed that February was named after the Roman god *Februus*.

*from Latin 'februarius mensis', meaning "month of purification"*

## How to Tell Whether Your Coffee Is Fresh

*Coffee beans do have an expiration date and can go bad like any other perishable ingredient.*

### Tips to tell whether your beans are fresh.

#### TIP 1: Check the roasted date

☞ Sometimes coffee roasters put "roasted on" dates on their labels. You can check your coffee bag for the date and calculate how long it has been since the beans have been roasted. Some roasters even thoughtfully put a "best by" date next to the roasted date to help consumers figure out when to use their fresh beans.

☞ If your bag doesn't have this information, try this method for estimating the roasted date. Seal beans in a zipper-lock bag and leave overnight (be sure to press out all of the air). If the beans were roasted 7-10 days ago, they'll release carbon dioxide, puffing up the bag. If the bag stays flat, the beans are no longer fresh.

☞ Though coffee beans are safe to use for several months after being roasted, their flavor will start to deteriorate after two to three weeks. Kaleena Teoh, co-founder of Coffee Project New York, recommends sourcing your coffee from a local roaster to ensure freshness.:

#### TIP 2: Check the appearance

☞ Freshly roasted coffee beans have a healthy, glossy shine but are not overly greasy. Dark roast beans may appear shinier than light roasts. However, old beans develop an oily sheen due to exposure to oxygen. Some beans may even dry out and become crackly, which is a telltale sign that it's about time to throw them out.

#### TIP 3: Take a sniff

☞ Aroma is another key indicator of the freshness of your coffee beans. Fresh beans have a robust, roasty, and fragrant smell whereas old beans smell rancid and stale.

#### TIP 4: See if your coffee "Blooms"

☞ If you make your coffee using a pour-over coffee maker, you can visually monitor how fresh your coffee is. When brewing fresh coffee, you will see the coffee bed blooming when you add hot water into it. "Blooming" refers to the first step of pour-over coffee making, during which a small amount of hot water wets the ground coffee, which immediately activates the carbon dioxide in the coffee that makes it look foamy and "bloomy."



by Valerie Sizhe Li – America's Test Kitchen

## Quotes

*"The Christian ideal has not been tried and found wanting. It has been found difficult: And left untried."*

~ G.K. Chesterton

(29 May 1874 – 14 June 1936)

English author, philosopher, Christian apologist

## What is another name for the Apocrypha?

**deu · tero · ca · non · i · cal**

/,dōōdə,rōkə'nānik(ə)l/

**Definition:** Deuterocanonical (apocryphal) books.

The deuterocanonical books, meaning '*of, pertaining to, or constituting a second canon*', collectively known as the Deuterocanon.

These are certain books and passages considered to be canonical books of the Old Testament by the Catholic Church, the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Oriental Orthodox Church, and the Church of the East. In contrast, modern Rabbinic Judaism and Protestants regard the DC as *Apocrypha*.

**Note:** St. Jerome (c. 347–420), the foremost Scripture scholar of his day, didn't accept the deuterocanonical books as Scripture. He was the primary author of the Latin Vulgate Bible, which he translated between 383 and 404. The Vulgate is a Latin translation of the Bible that was used in Western Europe from the Middle Ages to the 20th century.