



Eastern Meadows Church of Christ

8464 Vaughn Road, Montgomery, AL 36117

Phone: 334-273-0001 / Fax: 334-273-0375

January 22, 2015

ELDERS:

Tim Bagents
Don Brannan
Ted Norton

DEACONS:

Billy Bush
Roger Dill
Tim Gotkiewicz
Steve Housley
Wayne Johnston
Jimmy Mathews
Roy Mulkey
Randy Porterfield
Jeff Simpson

MINISTERS:

Steve Housley, Pulpit
Tim Gotkiewicz, Youth & College

SCHEDULE:

Sunday:

9:00 a.m. Bible Class
10:00 a.m. Worship
5:00 p.m. Worship

Wednesday:

6:30 p.m. Bible Study

RADIO PROGRAM

WMGY 800 AM DIAL

Sunday's 7:30-8 a.m.

With ROGER DILL

STATISTICS 1/18/15

Bible Class: 128
AM Worship: 187
PM Worship: 145
EMBF: \$77.00

WELCOME!

MONDAY-NIGHT-MOTIVATION

January 26, 2015

Meal, 6:30 PM & Class, 7 PM

MOUNT DORA CHILDREN'S HOME

Montgomery Benefit Dinner



January 29, 2015

6:00 PM

Renaissance Hotel & Spa

For tickets, see **PAUL CLEMENTS**,
ROY MULKEY, or **CHARLIE BODDY!**

16 Periods of Bible History

- ◆ Before the Flood
- ◆ The Flood
- ◆ Scattering of the People
- ◆ Patriarchs
- ◆ Exodus
- ◆ Wandering in the Wilderness
- ◆ Invasion and Conquest of the Land
- ◆ Judges
- ◆ United Kingdom
- ◆ Divided Kingdom
- ◆ Judah Alone
- ◆ Captivity
- ◆ Return from Captivity
- ◆ Years of Silence
- ◆ Life of Christ
- ◆ Early Church

FROM THE MINISTER:

We have a slab! If you looked as you arrived on Sunday morning you should have noticed that concrete has been poured! All of the dirt work, deep-drilled piers, conduits for electrical, and plumbing (much was done before the slab could go in!) had been completed and now with a slab we can finally see something rising from the dirt! By the way, over the past few months some dirt has been moved. It was moved by someone who wanted it who bore the expense of moving it themselves, saving us thousands in dirt moving costs!

Up-coming Lessons on Wednesdays. In the “Surviving Our Struggles” class next week we will study Managing Money followed by The Pain of Parenting. We will take a break from the “Surviving Our Struggle” class on Feb. 4.

Monday-Night-Motivations. This Monday is the first M-N-M study. We begin with a meal followed by a Bible lesson. The men have a class and the ladies have a class. Why not start this study on Monday. M-N-M meets once a month.

FROM THE YOUTH/COLLEGE MINISTER:

The youth group will be traveling to Rainbow Omega on Saturday, Feb 7th. We will depart at 7:30 AM and return between 4:30 and 5:00 PM.

Sally will take the girls to Hope Hull on Feb 21st to attend “PURE” at the Liberty Church of Christ. Activities will be from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM and will center on Philippians 4:8. Lunch will be provided. There will be a session for mothers who wish to attend with their girls. Please see Tim or Sally if you wish to attend.

Next area-wide worship is February 8th at Liberty. The sermon will be about “One Faith.”

TIM'S TRIVIA CORNER:

Last week's question: “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! “You shall love the LORD your God with all your _____, with all your _____, and with all your _____ . C) heart, soul, strength (Deut. 6:4,5)

This week's question: If you consider that the events in the book of Joshua encompassed a period of seven years, how old was Joshua when he became the leader of the Israelites?

A) 50; B) 103; C) 87



My Problem with the Phrase, “Everything Happens for a Reason”

Many well-intended Christians struggle to find the right words to say to one who is hurting. They see their brother or sister-in-Christ dealing with grief and they feel compelled to reach out. However, in an effort to provide comfort and encouragement they sometimes create more heartache and confusion. In the midst of a trial, they will say things like:

- You should feel blessed that God chose you to suffer.
- Hang on! God must be up to something!

- And, everything happens for a reason.

So let me see if I understand this: cancer is somehow a blessing from God? A young girl being raped is somehow a good thing in God's eyes? The school shooting in Newtown, CT, is all a part of God's wonderful plan? A son or a daughter killed in a car accident by a drunk driver is really a blessing in disguise?

God is good. He is the supreme ruler of the universe. He is in control. And no matter what happens, our God can help us through it. However, this does not mean that He is the direct cause of everything that happens. **Not everything that happens is something that God wants to happen.** And, not everything He allows to happen is good. God did not cause Satan to rebel. He did not force Adam and Eve to eat the forbidden fruit. He did not make David commit adultery with Bathsheba. He didn't sanction what was done in Newtown, CT. He didn't sign off on those terrorists flying into the Twin Towers, killing thousands. He doesn't give people cancer. And he doesn't kill small children because He needed them in heaven.

When one says, "Everything happens for a reason," what they often mean is that no matter what happens to us, it was God's will. Even unexplainable tragedy and horrendous suffering that stems from evil can be attributed to God and His divine plan for your life. The "proof-text" for this doctrine comes from Romans 8:28 where Paul writes:

"And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose."

This oft-quoted verse has come to mean that everything is really a good thing, no matter how bad it may seem. However, that is not the message of Romans 8:28. God does not cause all afflictions to occur. He is not the source of all the earth's ills. Does He permit them? Yes. Does He prefer them? No, not always. There were times in the Old Testament when God brought hardships upon His people as a consequence for their sin (cf. Jdgs. 6:1), but even in those instances the intent was benevolent in nature. To pin every disease, disaster, or death on God is to tread on some very shaky soil.

There is no denying that God can take adverse circumstances and work them out for the good of His people. Joseph is a prime example of this. Was God responsible for the actions of his brothers who, in their jealousy, sold him into slavery? No. Did God force Potiphar to throw Joseph into prison? No. Because "God was with him (Gen. 39:21)" Joseph eventually rose to a position of great authority in Egypt. He saved the Israelites and the surrounding nations from a severe famine. Joseph endured extreme hardship and heartache. Was God directly responsible for all of it? No. Yet, God was able to work in the midst of it. Notice what Joseph says to his brothers in Genesis 50:20:

"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about His present result, to preserve many people alive."

As Wayne Jackson has said, "God can and will accomplish His good purposes no matter what the situation or circumstance. But that doesn't mean that everything that happens to us is somehow good or necessary."*

So let's stop giving God the credit for the devil's best efforts. Everything may have a cause, but it's not always God. God never promised that this life would be fair, or that everything would always work out in our favor. However, He does promise that no matter what life or the devil throws at us His good and eternal purposes can never be hindered.

*Jackson, Wayne. *All Things Work Together for Good: Controversy or Comfort?*

www.christiancourier.com/articles/363-all-things-work-together-for-good-controversy-or-comfort.

* I highly recommend the book *10 Dumb Things Smart Christians Believe* by Larry Osborne. He offers great insight on this topic.

--Chris McCurley, *Start2Finish.org*

ANNOUNCEMENTS 1/22/15

Sunday, Jan. 25, 2015 / Leading the congregation in:

Announcements:

A.M.: Tim Gotkiewicz

P.M.: Tim Gotkiewicz

Opening Prayer:

A.M.: Charlie Boddy

P.M.: Alan Norton

Closing Prayer:

A.M.: Paul Clements

P.M.: Tim Stevens

Singing:

A.M.: Nathan Bridges

P.M.: Nathan Bridges

SICK: GWEN MANN is in Jackson Hospital. PAT PUGH underwent a heart procedure Tuesday and is in Baptist South. IRIS CLEMENTS BOYD, Paul Clements' mother, is at Jackson Hospital and has been seriously ill. RUTHIE BRIDGES is recovering at home after a hospital stay. SALLY GOTKIEWICZ is scheduled for shoulder surgery Monday, Jan. 26. IMOGENE DOLD, Tish Housley's mother, is now in rehab. Thelma Woolfolks mother has been in the hospital. Prayers have been requested for JENNY PATTERSON, Monica Dill's mother, who is scheduled for a heart valve replacement/repair surgery Feb. 11 at St. Vincent's Hospital in Birmingham. Sick at home Sunday: JIMMY ALLEN, WESLEY BERRY, RUSS CHANDLER, ROGER & HELEN DILL, VI ENGLISH, MARCIA GRAVES, KERRY ROBERTS, SYDNY ROBERTS, and DOROTHY SULLIVAN. *Battling Cancer:* MIKE NORMAN. *Shut-ins:* SYBIL SCOFIELD, TAM LOWERY, INELLA BOWDEN, CATHERINE LEINHEISER, LOURINE BLACK, JACKIE JOHNSTON, and JEWEL BARNES.

PRAYER REQUEST LIST: (Health Issues) JENNY JOHNSON, IMOGENE DOLD, and JENNY PATTERSON. (Battling Cancer) KEVIN PENICK, ANDY ALLEN, GLEN BARRON, BETH HUGGINS, GERMAINE HARDIN, and CINDY BOROUGHS.

SUNDAY BIBLE LESSON: 1/25—Judges, (Judges-1 Sam. 8); 2/1—United Kingdom, (1 Sam. 9—1 Ki. 11)

FELLOWSHIP MEALS: Team 2 (Martin) will host the meal this Sunday, Jan. 25, following morning services. Team 3 (Gotkiewicz) will host Feb. 1.

THURSDAY BIBLE CLASS: 10:30 AM - "The Gospel of Mark"

FEBRUARY CALENDAR: All events for the February calendar must be turned in by this Sunday, Jan. 25, to Wilma.

LADIES' DAY: There will be a Ladies' Day at North Lowndes Church of Christ Saturday, Feb. 7. The theme is "Abigail—What A Gal (1 Sam. 25 Revisited)" with Pat Norman speaking. For more info, call (334) 612-9642.

THANK YOU: Dear Eastern Meadows Family, Thank you so much for everything you did at the passing of our Mother / Grandmother Zora Bowden on Nov. 2nd. Our family was overwhelmed by your kindness. Much Love, Joy & Carson Davis and the children of Zora Bowden

MARRIAGE DAY—February 22—CHARLIE BODDY speaking

2015 BUDGET—\$12,120.00 / 1/18/15 CONTRIBUTION: \$12,359.00 / YTD: -\$438.00

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- **Feb. 8:** Area Wide Youth Devo, PM
- **Feb. 21:** "Pure" @ Liberty, 9:30 AM-1 PM (for pre-teen and older girls and a session for moms) Contact Sally if interested.

COLLEGE EVENTS

- **College Desserts:** Wednesdays @ 7:30 PM

LADYBUGS (Ladies Building Unity in God's Service)

2015 Theme: VICTORY

- **QUILTING,** Tuesdays, 1-3 PM
- **Jan. 24:** B&D Club Breakfast, Perry Hill Chap-py's, 9 AM
- **Jan. 26:** M-N-M, 6:30/7 PM—Food Sign-up List