

### GOD'S PLAN FOR SAVING MAN

God's Grace - Ephesians 2:8  
 God's Love and Mercy - Ephesians 2:4  
 Christ's Blood Shed – Romans 5:9-11  
 The Gospel – Romans 1:16  
*Our Response:*  
 Faith - Acts 16:31; Mark 16:15-16  
 Repentance – Luke 13:3  
 Confession – Romans 10:10  
 Be baptized for remission of sins – Acts 2:38; I Peter 3:21;  
 Be faithful, committed, walk in light – Revelation 2:10; I John 1:7-10

### LORD'S DAY ASSIGNMENTS

for today - Jan. 4  
 READ SCRIPTURE  
 Willie Cyphers  
 ANNOUNCEMENTS  
 Willie Cyphers  
 OFFICIATE LORD'S TABLE  
 Sydney Bunnell  
 SERVE COMMUNION  
 Phillip Perkins Dennis Hatcher  
 Donnie Edwards Malon Schuler  
 PREACHING  
 a. m. - Wayne Hatcher  
 p. m. - Wayne Hatcher  
 LEAD SINGING  
 Ken Russell

### Those To Serve In January

READ SCRIPTURE  
 4 - Willie Cyphers  
 11 - Malon Schuler  
 18 - Rex Wallace  
 25 - Phillip Perkins  
 ANNOUNCEMENTS  
 Willie Cyphers  
 OFFICIATE LORD'S TABLE  
 Sydney Bunnell  
 SERVE COMMUNION  
 Donnie Edwards Dennis Hatcher  
 Phillip Perkins Malon Schuler  
 LEAD SINGING  
 4 - Ken Russell  
 11 - Scott Huff  
 18 - Ken Russell  
 25 - Scott Huff



A Weekly Publication of the  
**Horse Cave CHURCH OF CHRIST**

120 Cave Street  
 Horse Cave, KY 42749

**TIME OF SERVICES:** Sunday: Bible Study 10 AM;  
 Worship 11 AM & 5 PM Wednesday: Bible Study 6 PM

**CHURCH WEB PAGE:** [www.horsecavecoc.com](http://www.horsecavecoc.com)

Focused on Christ - Thankful for our Salvation - Glorifying the Lord - Serving through Love - Preaching Christ to the World

We gladly welcome you to our congregation, trusting that – if you are *seeking Christ* you will find Him here, if *sorrowing* you will receive comfort and strength here, if *troubled in spirit* you will gain the blessing of peace here, if *discouraged* you will rejoice in encouragement and hope here, if *friendless* you will find companionship and Christian love here. That these and other blessings may be yours is our prayer.

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Number 1

### Rules or Love?

by Johnny Hester

Long ago I grew tired of the wrangling: "Is the Bible a 'book of rules' or a 'love letter'?" The very posing of the question itself reflects an obvious need for greater spiritual maturity. Think about it ...

The small child may, at times, see his parents primarily as dictators - whose sole function in life, it seems, is to issue restrictions and rules by which he must abide. "Rules! Is that all they think about?" However, when the child matures, he begins to see that these rules were clear evidence of his parent's love. The rules were not issued to benefit the parents, but to protect, guide and bless the child.

So it is with our Father in heaven. Rules? Yes, God gives us rules by which He expects us to abide. His revelation to man, the bible, should be seen as loving instruction which will ultimately lead us to Him. He loves us and wants us to live with Him eternally in heaven.

Carefully examine the words of Jesus: "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has not one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends" (John 15:12-13). Just imagine the phenomenal change and the amazing blessings which would result from our loving one another in the same way Jesus loves us. He was willing to die on a Roman cross for our salvation. There is no greater love than that which would compel one to "lay down [his] life for his friends!" To love one another in just this way, said Jesus, "is My commandment." It is a rule issued in love to foster love among us.

Let us endeavor to grow in our love for the Lord. This, will, in turn, enable us to love one another as He loves us.

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## PERSONAL NEWS & NOTES...

### REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Brandon Schuler is undergoing his treatments again; Bessie Brooks on dialysis; R. T. Turner; Renee` Perkins; James Horton is undergoing more treatments plus he had 3 stints inserted a few days ago; Robert Brooks; Linda Forbes; Parker Bybee; Mary Locke; Kathy Clarke; Wrendle Jones (Becky Hatcher's dad); Hugh Edwards; Leon & Agnes Seaton; Mark Hatcher & Donnie Edwards back problems; Rodney Middleton (Shady Grove) with CPOD; Carolyn Lizzer (Bill & Robert Brooks' sister); Jean Hogan is scheduled for Jan. 12 for surgery to remove the malignant tumor from her stomach; Bill Brooks is recuperating well at home from knee replacement surgery; lots of bugs and viruses are causing many people to be sick. The Schuler family, the Seatons, Helen Edwards and Renee` Perkins were all sick Sunday. Janice Bybee was not able to get out Wed. night; Jean Turner has been admitted to T. J. Samson

**IN REHAB:** Bonnie Turner had knee replacement surgery last Mon. in Louisville. She is now in rehab at Christian Health Center in B. Green.

### FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY

Kevin Gardner; Doris Garrison; Sherry Waddell; Kerry Howell; David Atwell; Thelma Lambright; John Taylor (Sara Brooks' dad); Leland Clack undergoing tests; Roger Lile; Bill Veach

Sympathy to the family of little Alaina Day who lost her battle with cancer in Indianapolis; and sympathy to the family of Merrold "Poodle" Hatcher; and sympathy to the family of Annette Houchens (member at Cave City)

### BARREN COUNTY HEALTH CARE

Katherine Short

### HIGHLAND RIDGE ASSISTED LIVING

Jean Turner Ruth Bradford

### HART COUNTY HEALTH CARE

R. T. Turner Mildred Briggs Carroll Stilts, Sr

**PRAY FOR THE EFFORTS** on our local radio programs via WLOC-1150 AM on Sunday mornings from 8:30—9:00. Also our ministry of HouseToHouse/HeartToHeart.

### VISIT BRANDON SCHULER'S WEBSITE

<http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/brandonschuler>

### NEW STUDIES

The auditorium class is in the Winter Quarter on the theme: **THIS WE TEACH**. We highly encourage you to be present for this excellent study. It will help you grow spiritually!!

Wayne will teach this class in Mike's place as Mike will be teaching the Wed. night class on "Circles of Truth".

### JOINT WORSHIP

We had an excellent joint worship with the Cave City congregation on Wed. night. The attendance was light this year due to so much sickness. We also had a wonderful time afterwards. The food and all the different varieties of soup were delicious. Thanks everyone!!!!

### VACATION TIME

I used my vacation time for 2014 for the last two Sundays of December. I was grateful and enjoyed my break from some of my duties. Special thanks to Mike Thompson who filled the pulpit and Billy Bybee who taught class on Dec. 23. We missed you—glad to be back.

**ELDERS & DEACONS MEETING** this afternoon at 3:00

### TEST YOUR BIBLE IQ

What nationality was Hagar?

The answer to last week's bible question:

Feeding the 5,000

**Visitors are always welcomed !!!!**

## Guest Editorial

- - David Bragg, Co-editor of BulletinGold

The thresholds of life, pivotal moments in which one takes serious stock of their lives, often give rise to resolutions. So it is common to make promises to others, God and ourselves at the dawn of a New Year. Perhaps you have your own set of "New Year's Resolutions" for 2015. While it is one thing to make promises (especially vague ones), the real challenge of self-improvement is keeping these promises.

Various studies have concluded that around thirty-eight percent (38%) of New Year's resolutions are broken during the first week of the New Year. Nearly seventy percent (70%) fall victim to violation during the month of January. Only very few are kept throughout the New Year. One's greatest resolution will always be the commitment made in the waters of baptism, for it will impact the rest of their earthly lives, but their eternal destiny as well. While we may struggle to remain faithful to our resolve to stay on that new diet, the commitment to remain faithful to Christ simply carries too great a price for failure.

The only way to live a better life this year is to do better each day. It is our prayer that each of us can honestly resolve every day to live more faithfully to Christ, to be a better example of spiritual service, and to let fewer opportunities for sharing our faith in Christ with others slip by without any effort to seize them. To accomplish these goals will require an outlook on life drastically different than the view commonly embraced by most in this world. Jesus spoke to this unique outlook when He said, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about it-

self. Each day has enough trouble of its own" (Matthew 6:34).

Christians should think seriously about their relationship to God, Christ, His church, the Bible, and their individual life as a disciple of Christ, striving to embrace their own personal goal for spiritual growth as they live faithful, obedient lives. The contents of this issue of BulletinGold will address this always pressing need of spiritual self-improvement. Then, come next December, we will have real cause to thank and praise our Father. May the hearts of your readers be stirred to be found faithfully serving Christ every day in 2015.

*(dates were changed from original article written in 2008. WH)*

## Look At Your Hands

Some hands are used to play the piano, some to mold clay, others to sign for those who cannot hear. Some hands are used to cook for others.

Look at your hands. What do you see? I see veins popping up, brown spots, wrinkles and unpolished nails. I see only the blemishes, but God sees them as instruments for serving others. If I choose, they can be used like the woman who "extends her hand to the needy" (Proverbs 31:20).

Paul tells us to "work with your hands" (1 Thessalonians 4:11). Solomon states that "lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth" (Proverbs 10-54). Isaiah begs for strength for his feeble hands (Isaiah 35:3). David also admonishes us to have "clean hands and a pure heart" (Psalm 24:4).

- Graynelle Thomas