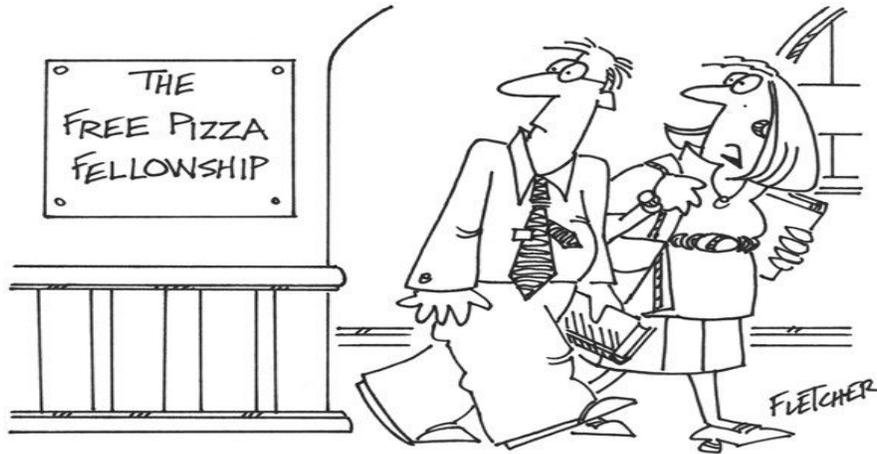

Family Matters

NEWS AND REMINDERS FOR THE TEHACHAPI CHURCH OF CHRIST FAMILY

December 13, 2020



"I'm not so sure renaming the church is the answer."

According to one Gallup poll, only 69% of Americans consider religion of any kind to be important in their daily lives. When we think in terms of numbers like these, it might be tempting to act out of desperation, and try gimmicks of all kinds and even to adapt our message in an attempt to appeal to more people. We need to increase our sales!

How much concern did Jesus and his apostles seem to have when it came to numbers? Jesus rejected 5000, then 4000, and focused on 12, then 72. We see about 120 in Acts 1, then 3000 baptisms in Acts 2. After that, we do not see the numbers in any church, and certainly nothing like a percentage within a culture.

Our purpose is to smell, not sell. When others around us who are desperately needing to be reconnected with God smell the self-sacrificing aroma of Christ emanating from our actions and words, they will be drawn to him. That is our work—our only job. The rest is up to God!

-Mark



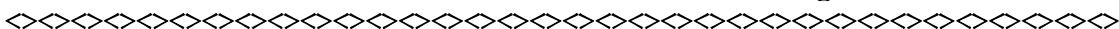
Today's lesson:

The Aroma of Christ

Working

II Corinthians 5:18-6:2

Homework: Read II Corinthians 2:14-6:2 again!



In person worship in the auditorium next week, December 20

is planned, but Bill and Derek are asking that in light of the current surge in local cases, we all wear masks and seat ourselves a good distance apart from others who do not live in our household. If masks or concerns for exposure are extremely uncomfortable we will continue to have online services for the foreseeable future.



Possible “permanent” change to worship restrictions

The Supreme Court has vacated the lower court ruling which had upheld Governor Newsome’s rules against in person church meetings. The issue has been remanded to the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, and they are ordered to rule in light of the ruling in New York against Governor Cuomo for another review of California’s restrictions on worship. We have no timeline on when that will happen, so keep praying. Link to the actual Supreme Court order:

https://www.supremecourt.gov/orders/courtorders/120320zr_j426.pdf

Worship online:

We may or may not be meeting in person, but either way, we will still have worship online. Go to our website (tehachapicofc.org) and use the link that Mike provides in order to get to the worship playlist for the week.

In addition to a prayer for the bread and cup at the end of the lessons, there are also some chosen acapella songs and hymns with various singers.!

Just click on this link or copy and paste it into your browser:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLwrNL2yL9V_bxTWVOvaeOvBz9VgihgZU3



ZOOM meetings are still taking place on Wednesdays at 4:30 and 7:00 We have started a new study from Jonathan Stortment, using his book and video series, *How to Start a Riot*.

If you would like to be included, contact Brenda: **email:** brendabixler106@gmail.com **call or text:** 661-803-5444 to join by *phone* or *computer*.

We also have a meeting on Sundays at 6:00pm!



Christmas gifts for Manuelito kids!

Due to your generosity, four kids at Manuelito will have a Merry Christmas! Well over \$1200 dollars have gone to provide many of the items on their wish lists. Most of them are already on their way to the home, but you can always ask Brenda what items might still be needed. A full report will be provided soon.

Remember in Prayer:

A good friend of Mike here in Tehachapi, **Elizabeth Sheley**, had surgery last Sunday morning at San Joaquin Hospital for a cancerous tumor on her brain. They thought they got all of it, but then saw that they missed some of it. A second surgery was scheduled for this morning (Sunday) at 7:30.

Norman Atchison is home from the hospital at Manuelito after fighting Covid for many days, but he is still struggling.

It is believed that the **Navajo Nation** will suffer a 500% increase in cases of Covid, and they are not equipped to treat any severe cases.

Pablo Blanco did not pass away, as we mistakenly reported. He is hopeful that this round of therapy is working.

Tony Monterroza (from Cindy's work) went home from the hospital last week, but is very weak. His wife, **Norma**, to whom he previously donated a kidney, was admitted to the hospital as Covid was affecting that kidney..

April Mathis's parents have both tested positive for the Covid, and are in high-risk categories. Pray that their symptoms do not become severe!

April Wiley's friend, **Linda Nunez**, has now received an amazingly good report at a recent check-up. She is thankful for our prayers and asks that we keep praying.

Pray that **Kirk Stewart** will gain strength in his legs and that he might soon be able to have visits from Pat (and others).

Bob Hanna has been having more bad days recently.

Remember **Robert Rivera** and **Donna Ricker's** health issues as well.

Pray for the many people who are distressed, anxious, and ill due to the Corona virus, with a special prayer for healthcare workers, and first responders.

Remember the homeless, and pray for **Blair** as he works to minister to them!

Always remember:

Men and women of our military.

Families serving in the mission field

The children and staff at Manuelito Navajo Children's Home

New Addresses

Claire (Nikki) Ferguson and her family have moved to 1381 Wild Olive Road, Tehachapi, CA 93561.
Phone:318-502-2034

Robert Hanna, Rose Garden Assisted Living, 810 S Union, Bakersfield, CA 93307

Tehachapi Church of Christ

401 S. Mill St.

Mailing: 1121 W Valley Blvd., Suite I Box 313

Tehachapi, CA 93561

Phone: 661-822-3991

Web: www.tehachapicofc.org

Schedule of Weekly Services

Sunday

AM Bible Class – 9:30am (**Temporarily suspended**)

AM Assembly – 10:30am (**Temporarily suspended**)

PM Bible Study – 6:00 **ZOOM Meeting online**

Monday

Alanon* will resume when possible

Wednesday

Women's Bible Study-10:30 AM (**Temporarily suspended**)

PM Bible Study – 4:30 & 7:00 PM **ZOOM Meeting online**

Friday

Alcoholics Anonymous* will resume when possible

*Alanon and Alcoholics Anonymous are not direct ministries of the church, but their purposes are supported by the church, and they meet in our Fellowship Room

Minister: Mark Bixler

Elders: Derek Demus & Bill Willingham

Mark Bixler's office
hours by appointment

Call or text: 818/470-5793

Email: marklbixler@yahoo.com

Elder of the Month:
Bill Willingham

What plans might God have for your life?

Jesus personally intervened in the life of Saul on the road to Damascus. Saul had made it his mission to persecute followers of Jesus. A man named Ananias was sent to Saul to tell him that God had very different plans for his life. Ananias said to Saul, "...what are you waiting for?

Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:3-16)

If you might be on the wrong path, it would be our privilege to help you discover God's plans for your life! Ask for a personal Bible study on the Welcome Card, or contact Mark Bixler

Numbers

Date	10/4/20	10/11/20	10/18/20	10/25/20	11/1/20	11/8/20	11/15/20
AM Assembly	25	27	27	24	32	41	38
Contribution	\$2764	\$1560	\$1130	\$1315	\$1900	\$2722	\$1273
Manuelito	\$179	\$85	\$403	\$0	\$80	\$162	\$329