



Kelham Korner

KELHAM BAPTIST CHURCH
3400 North Meridian
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Oklahoma City, OK 73157
(405) 946-9826
kelham.org

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

Prayer God Is Faithful Newer Requests

- Dale Allen—recuperation/therapy; Janie
- Bob and Judy Barker—health
- Gary & Judy Goree—health
- Bette Fehrle—vertigo/dizziness
- Charles Harris's daughter—knee
- Justine Hoel—Covid (symptom free so far)—Bellevue
- Julia Huntley—ongoing heart issues
- Ron Meek's cousin Lisa—health
- Glenn Myrick—health issues

Don and Jolene Rogers—skilled nursing to get back strength
Covid diagnosis for Jolene (no symptoms to date)

- Joni Sapp—health & well-being
- Youth and leaders

President, leaders, and representatives, mayor and council,
law enforcement—health, wisdom, courage, humility
Our nation

Ongoing Prayer Needs

- Glenda Anderson—health
- Tom Anderson—full recuperation
- Quinn Bradley—grandson of Larry and Lana Bradley
- Friend of Larry Bradley, Jerry Wright, health
- Imogene Carothers—well-being
- Delores Castleberry—health
- Dick Clark—well-being
- Dee Buckmier—health
- Lloyd and Joan Dickerson (in Texas)—health
- Maddy Frieden, friend of Claudia
- Mark Handley's son & brother, Tracy & wife, mom—Joyce
- Mitzi and Roger Hembree—health
- J. R. Hill—strength
- Danny Imhoff—health
- Chris McEver—well-being
- Sheila Noble—unspoken
- Becca Rocco's sister-in-law, Kathy Ketter—bile-duct cancer
- Shirley Smith—health
- Mitzi & Clarence Warstler—health/strength
- Paul Whatley's nephew (sister Michelle's son)

Military

Pastor's nephew; Heather McEver

Our Homebound

- Willis Bottger (Norman VA)
 - Imogene Carothers, (Purcell)
 - Sam & Delores Castleberry (home)
 - Pat Clark (Brookdale South)
 - Lloyd and Joan Dickerson (Crowley, TX)
 - Ruth Greene (Bill Long's aunt, assisted living)
 - Bill Harris (son's home, El Reno)
 - J. R. Hill (home)
 - Billye Murrell—assisted living, Texas
 - Perry Neel—Ginger Montgomery's grandfather
- For addresses and phone numbers
for our homebound, call the office.

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:13)

November Birthdays

- 18 Michelle Vess
- 20 Wanda Hixon
- 21 Ron Meek
- 23 Lana Bradley
- 25 Megan James
- 28 Tony Montgomery



Food Collection for the Baptist Mission Center

Please bring canned goods and nonperishable food items for the Baptist Mission Center. November is our month to collect for the Baptist Mission Center to distribute in December to those in need.

All-church Thanksgiving Dinner—Tuesday, November 24, 6 PM

Cost is free--but you must have reservations. Sign up in the Fellowship Hall.

We ask that each attendee bring a canned good or nonperishable food item for the Baptist Mission Center.

Packing Party!

We had a great turnout for the Operation Christmas Child Packing Party Friday night.

The group managed to pack at total of 228 Operation Christmas Child boxes to ship off to children. The Youth group packed about 60 boxes Wednesday night.

Please pray for the recipients of these boxes. God alone knows who each box will reach and how it will impact their lives.



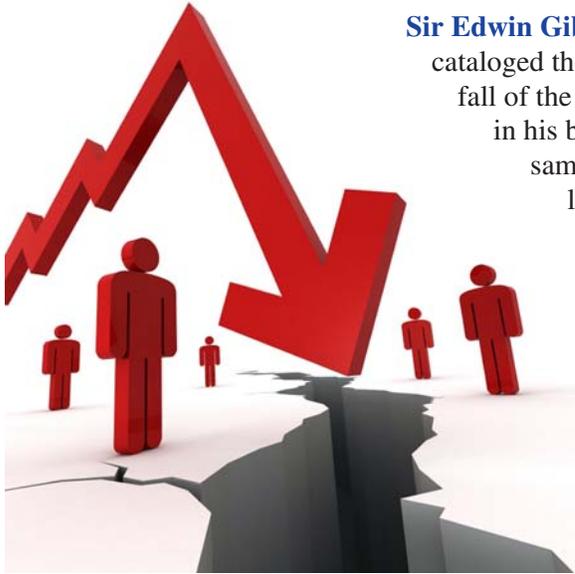
Stewardship for the week of 11/13/2020

Budget Receipts:	\$4,089.50
Required:	\$3,383.36
Over/Under:	706.14
Operation Christmas Child:	405.00
Bridge:	223.00
Edna McMillan:	100.00
T.A.B.:	20.00

Online Giving

<http://www.bfok.org/give-kelham>





Sir Edwin Gibbon famously cataloged the decline and fall of the Roman Empire in his book by the same name in the late 1700s (<https://sacred-texts.com/cl/gibbon/index.htm>).

Gibbon attributed the fall of the Roman Empire largely to its adoption of Christianity as the state

religion, an observation most modern scholars reject. In May of this year, *Technical Politics* argued powerfully that Gibbon had it 180 degrees wrong—that “the undoing of Europe is an act entirely of its own making, and is largely the product of the abandonment of public Christianity” (<https://www.technicalpolitics.com/articles/gibbon-had-it-entirely-wrong-it-is-the-abandonment-of-christianity-which-is-precipitating-the-collapse-of-european-society/>). “From the late–nineteenth-century onwards, Europe has developed an infatuation for worldly philosophies, such as atheism, socialism, Fabianism, communism, social Darwinism, scientific racism, fascism, materialism, liberal internationalism, globalism, social liberalism and relativism. These represent vain and worldly attempts by an increasingly post-Christian civic culture to replace the Christianity that had sat in the heart of European culture for over sixteen hundred years.” The article noted, “Europe has moved very quickly from abandoning public Christianity to assuming an actively hostile attitude towards the faithful church. This, more than anything else, perhaps signals the coming demise of the continent.”

Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito addressed similar developments in American culture and law last week in a speech to the Federalist Society on the corrosive effects of COVID-19 on the current legal order. Alito pointed out, “The pandemic has resulted in previously unimaginable restrictions on individual liberty... Think of all the live events that would otherwise be protected by the right to freedom of speech—live speeches, conferences, lectures, meetings; think of worship services, churches closed on Easter Sunday, synagogues closed for Passover on Yom Kippur War. Think about access to the courts, or the constitutional right to a speedy trial... Who could have imagined that the COVID crisis has served as a sort of constitutional stress test?”

Alito then observed “the dominance of lawmaking by executive Fiat rather than legislation.... all sorts of things can be called an emergency or disaster of major proportions. Simply slapping on that label cannot provide the ground for abrogating

our most fundamental rights. Alito focused on threats to religious liberty: “It pains me to say this, but in certain quarters religious liberty is fast becoming a disfavored right.... For many today, religious liberty is not a cherished freedom. It’s often just an excuse for bigotry, and it can’t be tolerated, even when there is no evidence that anybody has been harmed.... You can’t say that marriage is the union between one man and one woman. Until very recently, that’s what the vast majority of Americans thought. Now it’s considered bigotry.” Alito ended his speech referencing Justice Learned Hand’s famous “Spirit of Liberty” speech: “Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it” (<https://reason.com/volokh/2020/11/12/video-and-transcript-of-justice-alitos-keynote-address-to-the-federalist-society/>).

A recent Barna survey of Americans recorded what may well be a requiem for American faith and culture when it noted that a recent survey revealed only “17% of practicing Christians have a biblical worldview” (<https://www.barna.com/research/competing-worldviews-influence-todays-christians/>). The data suggest “an ongoing shift away from Christianity as the basis for a shared worldview.” Brooke Hempell, senior vice president of research for Barna, observed, “We have observed and reported on increased pluralism, relativism and moral decline among Americans and even in the Church. Nevertheless, it is striking how pervasive some of these beliefs are among people who are actively engaged in the Christian faith.” Hempell noted, “The challenge with competing worldviews is that there are fragments of similarities to some Christian teachings, and some may recognize and latch on to these ideas, not realizing they are distortions of biblical truths.”

J. B. Phillips gave us a helpful translation of Paul’s counsel to Timothy: “BUT you must realize that in the last days the times will be full of danger. Men will become utterly self-centered, greedy for money, full of big words. They will be proud and abusive, without any regard for what their parents taught them. They will be utterly lacking in gratitude, reverence and normal human affections. They will be remorseless, scandal-mongers, uncontrolled and violent and haters of all that is good. They will be treacherous, reckless and arrogant, loving what gives them pleasure instead of loving God. They will maintain a facade of ‘religion’ but their life denies its truth. Keep clear of people like that.”

That’s a negative prescription, but what can we do positively? Peter wrote, “Simply concentrate on being completely devoted to Christ in your hearts. Be ready at any time to give a quiet and reverent answer to any man who wants a reason for the hope that you have within you” (*J. B. Phillips Translation*). We have the hope the world needs. His name is Jesus.

Brother Gary

