



# Apple Valley Church of Christ



Seeking and saving the lost...

**Welcome,**  
The Apple Valley Church of Christ extends a warm welcome to our guests. We are honored by your presence today. If you have any questions or concerns please express them to us. We are all here to serve.

**Prayer List**

Pray that sister Jones and family be comforted during their time of mourning. Pray for the Bowers family. Donna Kelly's husband recently passed, pray for her. Pray for Wanda's sister Peaches, she is having upcoming procedures for her eyes. Francisco will be having surgery in October. Francisco Jr. will be having a toe amputated due to diabetes complications, pray for him. Pray for Sylvia and family. Pray for sister McKinney's health and for help in her decision making. Pray for Stephanie Munoz and family, she has cancer. Pray for Shetera's health. Pray for sister Lorena's cousin, Jackie Grimes, who has suffered a heart attack. Pray for brother Henderson who has been ill and also for his family. Thom and Mary Elizabeth need prayers. Brother Freeman is recovering from eye surgery, pray for his health. Pray that Donna's bone density test situation is resolved so that she can get what she needs in a timely manner. Keep Rosetta's grandson in prayer. Pray for sister Leola's friend Elena Armstrong who has stage 4 kidney cancer. Also pray for Keion Richardson, Leola's 7 year old nephew who has cancer also her brother-in-law Nick is very ill. Pray for the health of Jessica's friend Sam Calabro.

**Plan of Salvation for Mankind**

Hear the Word .....Romans 10:17  
Believe the Word .....Mark 16:15-16  
Repent of your sins .....Luke 13:3-5  
Confess His name.....Matt. 10:32-33  
Baptism .....1Peter 2:211  
Live Faithfully .....Revelation 2:10



**Order of Today's Services**

1. Singing
2. Opening Prayer
3. Singing
4. Preaching
5. Invitation Song
6. Communion Song
7. Communion
8. Song Before Offering
9. Offering
10. Announcements
11. Closing Song
12. Closing Prayer

Song Leader - Stan  
Prayer - TC  
Preaching - Stan  
Table Lead - Lenard  
Helper - Brandon  
Helper - Travis  
Announce - Henry  
Prayer - Dan



### **Portable Baptistry**

Still need donations for purchasing a portable baptistry so that we can move forward with our building remodel plans. Anticipated cost is about \$1200.

### **Holiday Baskets**

We are needing turkey gravy packets for the holiday baskets. Every family please try to donate 1 turkey, you can get them when they are on sale for the holidays. The freezer in the back is ready to receive them. Please join in this good work.

### **Traveling**

Francisco and Wanda, June, Sylvia, Prince. The Baker's are in Lucerne Valley today. Pray for everyone's safe return.

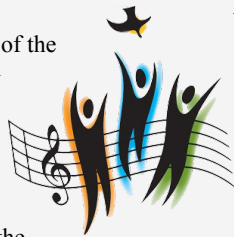
### **Elders**

Stan Harmon  
Lenard Johnson  
Henry Brass

### **Sing a Little Louder**

During the horrific events of the Nazi Holocaust, a German Christian remembers a train that passed by his church, and as it did, the churchgoers could hear the people and their cries for help—cries that to this day still haunt the man. The church soon realized that if they just sang a little louder they could drown out the cries of distress. Sadly, this cover up is still going on today. Many Christians are simply singing a little louder in an attempt to drown out the cries of God's people who are leaving the simple pattern for the church and her work. In fact, far too many congregations are digressing from the model God gave in His Book. Consider some of the areas of digression.

Firstly, the pattern is left when it comes to glorifying. In many places, man has stolen the glory that so rightfully belongs to Almighty God. Paul penned, "Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus



throughout all ages, world without end. Amen" (Ephesians 3:21). In this one passage alone we see the person – "Unto him..." which obviously refers to the Godhead (cf. Ephesians 3:1-20). No person is worthy of glory! God deserves each and every ounce of glory and adoration! However, when we name extra religious organizations after mankind, we are robbing God. Secondly, we see the practice – "...glory..." which refers to praise, homage and worship. Far too often, we are enamored with man instead of with God. Only God is worthy of praise and worship (Matthew 4:10). Thirdly, we see the place – "...in the church..." God is not glorified in a manmade "institution." Although excuses are given for these extra-biblical organizations ("they do a lot of good" or "great men are involved in them"), the truth of God's Word still remains. Lastly, we see the period – "...throughout all ages..." There will never be a time when this passage will not be true! Although many congregations are just "singing a little louder," God's Word will never be completely masked!

Secondly, the pattern is left when it comes to giving. Almost unbelievable to me is the fact that some congregations are actually holding fundraisers, yard sales, dinners and other means to support the work of the church. God could not have been clearer as to how He desired the church to be funded. "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come" (1 Corinthians 16:2). Defending Christianity, preaching the Gospel, edifying the saved and giving to those in need are all works of the church and are only to be funded through "freewill" offerings on the Lord's Day. Paul, a true missionary, was supported by his own hands and local congregations (Philippians 4:10; 2 Corinthians 11:9). Can you imagine Paul holding a dinner for donations to preach the Gospel or selling tickets to an event to raise money to give a defense of his Christianity? Brethren, we are drifting, and our singing a little louder will not anchor the ship. Thirdly, the pattern is left when it comes to generosity. How should we send aid to needy people? God said, "Every man according as purposes in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). Paul gathered aid for the needy from congregations and individual Christians, and he sent that aid by the hand of Titus and

another brother (2 Corinthians 8:16ff). Titus and this other brother were chosen by the churches (2 Corinthians 8:19). Sadly, today many congregations give money to relief groups, bigger than local congregations, to do their benevolence for them. Why? If benevolence worked in the days of Paul, why won't the same pattern work today? God gave us a model of how to help the needy, and singing a little louder will never change it!

Well-meaning brethren in many locations have left the simple pattern of the New Testament. God's ways always work! Our plea must be to return to that which God has authorized. No additions, gimmicks, groups, centers, organizations or teams. The only team we need is the one God ordained, the church! I have heard it said by many, "We know it's wrong, but what can we do?" We must lovingly demand a "thus saith the Lord" for all we believe and practice. If a congregation will not follow the pattern of the New Testament, then they are not a congregation of the New Testament! Please stop singing a little louder so that God's Word can be clearly heard! Rodney Nulph

### **What Will Our Children Remember?**

Childhood memories are some of the sweetest of our lives – that period of time from birth till we leave our homes to go out into the world. When a young person leaves home, he many times becomes homesick, and that homesickness has to do with his memories of home life. Dare any of us say that we have had no such experiences? In this article, we will explore the subject of what our children will remember, not only about home life, but about church life also.

What will our children remember about their home life? Sadly, there are those who will remember a father who was a tyrant and a mother who cared more for the world than she did for her home and family. Some will remember parents who were quite frequently drunk or under the influence of illegal drugs. Some daughters will even have terrible memories of a father who sexually molested them. Hopefully instead, most children will have pleasant memories of home and family. However, will our children remember those happy times when the family prayed together? Will that precious daughter and son have that memory of hearing their parents call their names before the throne of God? When they are far away from home, facing

the events of everyday life, will they be strengthened by the knowledge that it was the habit at home to have family prayer where each child was mentioned and for which prayer was made? Away from home, will they know that the rest of the family is still remembering them every day in prayer? Will our children remember those times when the Bible was read and discussed each day, perhaps as the family either was ready to go forth for the day or was settling in for the night? Will our children and grandchildren be able to say as it was said of Timothy: "... that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus" (2 Timothy 3:15)?

Or, will our children remember that much more emphasis was put on getting good grades in school, thus preparing themselves to make a living, rather than the emphasis being put on a study of the Scriptures, faithful attendance to all of the services of the church, thus preparing them to be able to withstand temptations and to make a life, a life that is prepared to meet God? In short, will our children remember that the church came first in the life of the family, rather than things of a temporal nature?

What will our children remember about the church where they attended? Will they have memories of a group of people who truly loved and appreciated one another, people who had faults, but were doing their best to show forth Christ in their personal lives? Will they remember that the preacher and the Bible School teachers were students of the Word of God, and that they presented the Gospel message in firmness and in love? Or, will they remember church services as a time of "fun and games" where little was taught or learned about the "greatest story ever told." If, when our children leave home, they are asked why they are members of the church of Christ, will they be able to give a scriptural answer? Will our children be able, after growing up in their local congregation, know – really know – what the work of the church actually is? What will they, in turn, teach their children?

If it is true that the church is always only one generation away from apostasy, then shouldn't it be the desire and goal of every parent and every congregation to implant into the minds of our children those memories that will cause them to have a deep and abiding respect for God, Jesus Christ, and His precious body, the church?

Ernest S. Underwood