

# **CAMPAIGN COURIER**

VOLUME IV, NUMBER 23

PREACHER Jason Gann 931-668-3732

SERVICES Sunday Morning Bible Study: 10:00 AM Sunday Morning Worship Service: 11:00 AM Sunday Evening Worship Service: 6:00 PM Wednesday Evening Bible Study:

7:00 PM

CHURCH OF CHRIST

SUNDAY, JUNE 8, 2014

The Official Bulletin of the CAMPAIGN CHURCH OF CHRIST 688 Pine Bluff Road Campaign, TN 38550 931-686-8520 www.campaignchurchofchrist.org www.facebook.com/campaignchurchofchristcampaigntn "A Friendly Church Seeking to Edify Each Other as We Shine as Lights unto the World" Serving Since 1923

But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him (Habakkuk 2:20)."

CAMPAIGN COURIER VO

### "WHY HAS THERE BEEN A DECLINE IN PUBLIC Responses?" BY: NEAL POLLARD

While I am certain that there are those who will say that they are still seeing as many public responses in their assemblies as ever, most will observe what I have observed. As I think back to my childhood, public responses to the invitation were commonplace—nearly every service. When I first began preaching, public responses requesting baptism or public repentance by members very regularly occurred. Steadily, particularly in the last five to 10 years, such responses have declined. The burning question is, "Why?"

One might point to the growing influence of the world and its impact on the heart of hearers. One may point to weaker, less distinct preaching. One could talk about how potential responders will feel judged or condemned by the others present. One could speak of the philosophies and world views of the age, whether secularism, naturalism, postmodernism, or emergent theology.

Though these are no doubt factors, I am not fully satisfied with them. Weren't these stumbling blocks in place in previous generations. The names of the philosophies may have changed, but they were there. Consider another theory. Are we losing the traditional, real social connection and fellowship of days gone by as we lose ourselves in the virtual world of social media (some of the same desensitizing factors could apply to TV and movies, too)? Before you dismiss this theory, consider some reasons why I promulgate it.

Some use social media as their "confessional" or front pew, where they confess their failings in marriage, attitude, speech, or actions. On the other hand, social media outlets—particularly those having photos as part of their makeup—create an artificiality. We don't post unflattering pictures (and may plead with those that tag us in them to delete them), don't generally admit to weaknesses of character or anything that may make us seem inferior to others (financially, socially, intellectually, etc.). Image replaces integrity.

Increased time on social media, cultivating that virtual world and its relationships, may be robbing us of real-time, real-life relationships. We often neglect those in front of us for those we're "visiting" by phone or tablet. How might this impact public responses? Are we meeting the needs of James 5:16 and 1 John 1:9 via the virtual world? Are we afraid to show vulnerability, need, or weakness, lest we be deemed "inferior"? Have we desensitized ourselves, losing the ability to be "real"? There may be huge holes in my theory, but I suspect there is at least some truth to it.

What can we do to reverse the trend? Hopefully, giving it some serious thought is a start. We cannot reduce ourselves to mindless minions who are consumed with the superficial while disconnecting from the authentic. We must renew a dedication to fellowship and relationship, now more than ever! The people on Pentecost were disturbed enough by clear, divine teaching to make that known in the clearest terms (Acts 2:37). Let's help the church be a place of real connections and relationships so we can help each other when spiritual needs exist.

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## SICK LIST

Lloyd Locke

Velma Maggert

Wayne Malone

Iordan Militello

Linda Mullican

Brenda Murphy

Brenda Oualls

Keley Roller

James Rowland

Kelly Rowland

Dalton Stewart

Haley Taylor

Kenna Taylor

Henry Thompson

Bertie Tenpenny

Geneva Tenpenny

Barbara Wagoner

Chloe Williamson

Una Ray

Charlotte Pearsall

Becky McCormick

**Bobby Ballew** Harrison Biles, Jr. Charles Bostick Janice Breedlove Marie Buckner Bud Butcher Jennie Davis Alaina Day Hannah Disbro Harold Dykes Hassie Lee Dykes Don Frye Terri Glisson Joe Gribble Charles Hall Billy Hennessee Tammi Hill Chris Houser Myrtle Hutchings Betty Jones Jim Jones Mary King

Please remember to pray for the sick. Psalm 17:1 says, "Hear the right, O LORD, attend unto my cry, give ear unto my prayer, that goeth not out of feigned lips."

#### **BIBLE SCHOOL CORNER**

#### Sunday Morning Teenage Class

We are thankful for brother Kevin Rowland teaching this class! If you know of any teenagers to be with our teenagers here, encourage them to come and study God's Word in this important class.

#### NEWS

- We are so grateful for your presence!
- We rejoice as brother Bobby Ballew repented and confessed his sins on Tuesday, May 20, 2014. Let us encourage him as he lives this Christian life.
- Thanks to all of those who helped make our Vacation Bible School a success! Thanks to all who taught classes. Also, thanks to all who led songs and prayers, prepared food, helped with the cookout and hayride, and who helped in any way. We appreciate all that you did.
- Tennessee Bible College Truth Bible Camp in Cookeville, TN, June 15-18 for boys and girls ages 9-18
- Help us to re-stock our pantry. This week's pantry item is a can of green peas.
- Happy Anniversary to Davie and Julie King, who will celebrate this Thursday, June 12, if the Lord permits!
- Happy Anniversary to Kevin and Lisa Rowland, who will celebrate on Monday, June 16, if the Lord permits!

#### Baby Shower for Jason & Brandi Gann Sunday, June 8, 2014 Following the Sunday Evening Worship (Note: The baby is a girl!)

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