

# Christian Church of God Newsletter



## The Pastor's Pen

Hello My Brothers  
& Sisters in  
Christ,

We lost a brother and servant of the Lord this past week, Virgil Cline. Virgil was one of those steadfast and faithful servants working quietly in the background doing his part to keep our Sermon Outreach Ministry going, furthering the mission of this Church and promoting the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We shall miss the fruit of his labors and his ever-present smile.

While all who knew and loved Virgil feel sadness and loss, let us be mindful of Virgil's victory in Christ. Virgil died in the faith, he sleeps in Christ, salvation is his and he shall rise at the Last Trump when Jesus Christ, who Himself conquered death & the grave, returns...

and return He shall!

### **John 14:1-3**

**1 Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.**

**2 In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.**

**3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.**

It is not Virgil who has suffered loss; it is his brother and family, his good neighbors and his brethren who feel the loss of Virgil's smiling, agreeable presence. While Virgil's quiet demeanor would not allow him to say

it, of Virgil I shall say the words of the Apostle Paul which fit his life.

**2 Tim 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:**

**8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.**

So as we say goodbye to our friend and brother, let us remember it is "au revoir", or as Gene Autry would say, " 'til we meet again".

*In the Service of  
Our Lord,*

**Jeff Booth**



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### *Special points of interest:*

- The hope of the Resurrection
- A little bird told me [Ecl. 10:20]
- Pray for our Nation, our President, our Soldiers

Our sermons broadcast on KGRO  
Radio at 9:05 AM Sunday. Check  
[www.pan-tex.net](http://www.pan-tex.net)

Our Home Page:  
[www.christianchurchofgod.org](http://www.christianchurchofgod.org)

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I hear by the  
Grapevine

**G**



IF YOU HAVE A TIDBIT OFF THE GRAPEVINE YOU WANT TO SHARE WITH OUR READERS, YOU CAN SEND IT TO ME AT [jdmrnc@arn.net](mailto:jdmrnc@arn.net) or c/o Christian Church of God, P. O. Box 33134, Amarillo, TX 79120 or hand it to me (please don't just tell me, I'm addicted to notes, yea I needeth them very much!).  
~ The Editor



EDITORIAL CONFESSION: Well, I did it again: I messed up one of the most "important" parts of the newsletter—the humor section. The "Turtle Race / Bible Study Selection" cartoon in the last issue was illegible. Couldn't tell that each turtle was named after a book of the Bible; couldn't tell that the turtle who won again was the book of Nahum. What you should have been able to read was: "Oh no, not NAHUM again." Well, I will do my best not to let that happen again, even if I have to neglect typos, grammar, sentence structure, proper quotes and credits, etc. After all, humor is so important. Without it, the political campaign would have been virtually unbearable. ■

Editor's Note: Thanks to Joe Kirkpatrick who sent the following; a portion of it was referred to in a recent sermon by Pastor Booth:

**Thursday, February 12, 2004  
Miller Delivers Floor Speech on  
'Deficit of Decency' in America**

**WASHINGTON - U.S. Senator Zell Miller (D-GA) today delivered the following statement on the floor of the United States Senate addressing several social issues facing the country:**

**"The Old Testament prophet Amos was a sheep herder who lived back in the Judean hills, away from the larger cities of Bethlehem and Jerusalem. Compared to the intellectual urbanites like Isaiah and Jeremiah, he was just an unsophisticated country hick.**

**"But Amos had a unique grasp of political and social issues and his poetic literary skill was among the best of all the prophets. That familiar quote of Martin Luther King, Jr. about 'Justice will rush down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream' are Amos's words.**

**"Amos was the first to propose the concept of a universal God and not just some tribal deity. He also wrote that God demanded moral purity, not rituals and sacrifices. This blunt speaking moral conscience of his time warns in Chapter 8, verse 11 of The Book of Amos, as if he were speaking to us today: That 'the days will come, sayeth the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land. Not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the word of the Lord. 'And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east. They shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it.' 'A famine in the land'. Has anyone more accurately described the situation we face in America today? 'A famine of hearing the words of the Lord.'**

**"But some will say, Amos was just an Old Testament prophet - a minor one at that - who lived 700 years before Christ. That is true, so how about one of the most influential historians of modern times?**

**"Arnold Toynbee who wrote the acclaimed 12 volume A Study of History, once declared, 'Of the 22 civilizations that have appeared in history, 19 of them collapsed when they reached the moral state America is in today.'**

**"Toynbee died in 1975, before seeing the worst that was yet to come. Yes, Arnold**

**PRAYER REQUESTS:** "... The prayer of faith shall save the sick and the Lord shall raise him up; . . . Pray for one another that you may be healed." — James 5:15-16.



**Vickie Crevoi** — chronic progressive MS (Linda Booth's sister).

**Rickey Wright** — severe stroke, now in therapy (Tracie Strahan's cousin).

**Sam Kiser** — pneumonia, acute renal failure, multiple myeloma cancer. Sam's condition is critical (friend of Jeff and Linda).

**Hank Unruh** — two-year battle with cancer (friend of John Stickel).

**Dollie Meil** — cerebral palsy.

**Carrie McClenan** — weekly dialysis for severe kidney failure.

**Audrey Strahl** — congestive heart failure (Jeff Booth's mother).

**Kathryn Scott** — severe MS, losing use of arms and swallowing ability (friend of Baileys).

**Randy Gnessett** — pulmonary hypertension and awaiting a lung for transplant (friend of Candace Sellers).

**Velvet Green** — suffering from schizophrenia (Gary's wife).

**Amber & Dylan Clark** — cerebral palsy (grandchildren of Betty Clark).

**Nell Foster** — nursing home, dementia and blood clots in leg (friend of Betty Clark).

**Ralph Moore** — colon cancer (Francis Carlson's uncle).

**Dan Copenhauer** — disabled, chronic pain (Betty Clark's brother).

**Bob Wertz** — achalasia, a disorder of the esophagus.

**CELEBRATIONS**

**CONDOLENCES**

**Happy Birthday!**

Darrel Sehorn                      December 17<sup>th</sup>

Arthur Carlson                    December 20<sup>th</sup>

Darrell Baker                      December 29<sup>th</sup>

**Happy Anniversary!**

Teresa & Steve Cryer    December 27<sup>th</sup>

Rom. 12:15, "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep."

Deepest sympathies and prayers of comfort for the family, friends and brethren of Virgil Cline who died this past Monday, November 29.



Sing songs from your heart to Christ. Sing praises over everything, any excuse for a song to God the Father in the name of our Master, Jesus Christ. ~ Ephesians 5:19-20, Msg.

**Hymns for Him**

EDITORIAL: Today's identification of different types of music in the church is a point of contention with me. When signs advertise different times for "Contemporary Worship" and "Traditional Worship," it computes to "Up-to-date, modern Worship" versus "Old codgers, out-of-date, boring Worship." This ought not to be! One even hears such expressions as "worship songs" versus "hymns." How ludicrous! If one cannot worship God with some of the most thought-provoking lyrics ever written—from authors like Luther, Watts and Crosby—how can they worship with endless repetition of one phrase, a mantra intended to work the singer into an emotional state of so-called "worship." Those of you who know me are well aware that I love "mood music"—be that the secular songs of romance, patriotic music, or upbeat motivational music in any genre. And "mood music" in the church can be appropriate if we are attentive to the leading of the Holy Spirit. It can complement the spoken Word, can heal the brokenhearted, and lift the depressed spirit. But let's make sense of it all; as the text of this column states: it should be from the heart, should be to Christ, and should be full of praise to God! ~

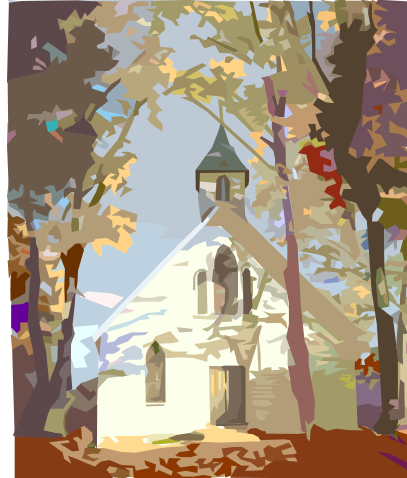
# Christian Church of God

Praise the LORD.

Praise God in his  
sanctuary;

praise him in his  
mighty heavens.

PS 150:1



Christian Church of God

801 Quail Creek Drive

Amarillo, Texas 79124

## Pastor's Class

You are cordially invited to attend  
a special series beginning Janu-  
ary 8th in our Continuing Educa-  
tion Program conducted at 10:45  
a.m. each Sabbath.

# A NATION'S STRENGTH

It was encouraging to observing polls after the election of people who cast their vote. This nation was founded, on a foundation of moral principles. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD. . . ." (Ps. 33:12a, KJV) And the proverbs agree: "When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan. . . . By justice a king gives a country stability, but one who is greedy for bribes tears it down." (PR 29:2, 4, NIV)

serve the Wednesday morning because of the percentage vote in view of moral issues. for the most part, on a foundation of moral principles. And the Psalmist's words still ring true:

We certainly have no claim to righteousness throughout our great country, but a remnant of people, however small or large, still hold to moral values. Thank God for that! In the great battle between Good and Evil, we should be more attentive than ever to the need to pray for our President and the leaders who encircle him. And we were reminded of that on the recent National Day of Prayer.

Scripture speaks to this need in several ways, beginning with a familiar verse in 2 Chronicles 7:14 addressed to Israel: ". . . if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land." This principle can be applied to any nation.

Here are some specific areas to pray about:

1. Pray for our nation that no weapon formed against us will prosper. (Isa. 54:17a)
2. Pray that God will forgive the sins of our nation and will have mercy on us. (Psalm 130:7)
3. Pray that the Lord will deliver us from evil — the "Evil One." (Matt. 6:13)
4. Pray that the Lord will bless this tenure of our president, that he will remain humble before God and attentive to God's will. Daniel 4:34-35, "At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; his kingdom endures from generation to generation. All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: 'What have you done?'"
5. Pray that this nation will continue to be one of the nations named in Daniel 4:1-3: "To the peoples, nations and men of every language, who live in all the world: May you prosper greatly!"



**GRAPEVINE continued**

Toynbee saw the famine. The 'famine of hearing the words of the Lord.' Whether it is removing a display of the Ten Commandments from a Courthouse or the Nativity Scene from a city square. Whether it is eliminating prayer in schools or eliminating 'under God' in the Pledge of Allegiance. Whether it is making a mockery of the sacred institution of marriage between a man and woman or, yes, telecasting around the world made-in-the-USA filth masquerading as entertainment. . . .

"I am pleased to be a co-sponsor of S.J. Res. 26 along with Senator Allard and others, proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to marriage. And S.1558, the Liberties Restoration Act, which declares religious liberty rights in several ways, including the Pledge of Allegiance and the display of the Ten Commandments. And today I join Senator Shelby and others with the Constitution Restoration Act of 2004 that limits the jurisdiction of federal courts in certain ways.

"Everyone today seems to think that the U.S. Constitution expressly provides for separation of church and state. Ask any ten people if that's not so. And I'll bet you most of them will say 'Well, sure.' And some will point out, 'it's in the First Amendment.'

"Wrong! Read it! It says, 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.' Where is the word 'separate'? Where are the words 'church' or 'state.'

"They are not there. Never have been. Never intended to be. Read the Congressional Records during that four-month period in 1789 when the amendment was being framed in Congress. Clearly their intent was to prohibit a single denomination in exclusion of all others, whether it was Anglican or Catholic or some other.

"I highly recommend a great book entitled Original Intent by David Barton. It really gets into how the actual members of Congress, who drafted the First Amendment, expected basic Biblical principles and values to be present throughout public life and society, not separate from it.

"It was Alexander Hamilton who pointed out that 'judges should be bound down by strict rules and precedents, which serve to define and point out their duty.' Bound down! That is exactly what is needed to be done. There was not a single precedent cited when school prayer was struck down in 1962.

"These judges who legislate instead of adjudicate, do it without being responsible to one single solitary voter for their actions. Among the signers of the Declaration of Independence was a brilliant young physician from Pennsylvania named Benjamin Rush.



"When Rush was elected to that First Continental Congress, his close friend Benjamin Franklin told him 'We need you. . . we have a great task before us, assigned to us by Providence.' Today, 228 years later there is still a great task before us assigned to us by Providence. Our Founding Fathers did not shirk their duty and we can do no less.

"By the way, Benjamin Rush was once asked a question that has long interested this Senator from Georgia in particular. Dr. Rush was asked, are you a democrat or an aristocrat? And the good doctor answered, 'I am neither'. 'I am a Christocrat. I believe He, alone, who created and redeemed man is qualified to govern him.' That reply of Benjamin Rush is just as true today in the year of our Lord 2004 as it was in the year of our Lord 1776.