

I WILL BE FOREVER IN HIS DEBT

In Christ I've learned to give as well as take.
In serving others, I serve for his sake.
But it is also for my own soul's sake.

His love has given me new life to live.
I'm giving back what Christ gave me to give.
By sharing him I earn the right to live.

The truest gift I can give is my life.
But I am his, He bought me with his life.
I give what is already his – my life.

What I am giving, Christ my Lord will keep
Until I wake from death's long dreaded sleep.
He, through eternity, my soul will keep.

Although my debt to him is never paid,
In life or death I will not be afraid,
Secured by what the Lord has paid.

(Gerald Cowan, BulletinGold, April 2019)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26

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Number 11

CHURCH OF CHRIST
711 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 88
Carthage, TN 37030
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SMITH COUNTY LIGHT

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."(Matthew 5:16)



MEETING PLACE OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

711 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 88
Carthage, TN 37030
(615) 735-0114

Elders:

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Sam Willcutt
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Justin Mauldin
(931-319-6548)

Secretary:

Kristi Hassler
(615-489-5144)

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday Worship
9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Bible Study

Sunday Morning 10:15 A.M.
Wednesday Evening 7:00 P.M.

Email: carthagecoc@dtccom.net

Fax Number: (615) 735-0131

Website: www.carthagechurchofchrist.net

Sunday & Wednesday Services broadcast on Facebook & YouTube

Correspondence Courses, Tracts or Home Bible Study/ Videos.
(615-735-0114 or 615-735-2462)
For Transportation to Services
615-735-0114 or 615-418-6637

"VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME"

"THERE IS HOPE"

In Genesis 12, God commanded Abram and his family to leave their country. He promises to give him land and blesses him and his generations. Abram responds: *"And he believed in the Lord; and He accounted it to him for righteousness"* (Gen. 15:6). After Abraham died, God renews these promises to Isaac that He made with his father, Abraham (Gen. 26:1-5). In Genesis 35, God appears to Jacob in Bethel and changes his name to Israel, renewing His promises that He made with Jacob's grandfather and father. In Genesis 48, Jacob repeats these promises on his deathbed in Egypt to Joseph, Ephraim, and Manasseh. *"These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth"* (Heb. 11:13). They hoped for the Promised Land with its many blessings and acted in their obedience to that hope. Speaking of Abraham, Paul said in Romans 4:18, *"Who, contrary to hope, in hope believed, so that he became the father of many nations..."* These steadfast patriarchs understood the power of hope and gave us lessons of hope by their example.

These steadfast patriarchs hoped in God. In each case, they put their faith, obedience, and hope solely in God's hands. We might hope for so many things, including better health, more money, or a better job, but our hope should be in God. David said in Psalm 33:22, *"Let thy mercy, O Lord, be upon us, according as we hope in thee."* Paul said in 1st Timothy 1:1 that our Lord Jesus Christ is our hope. Paul tells the Corinthian brethren that our hope found in Christ has abolished the veil over the Law of Moses (2 Cor. 3:12-16). How sad it is for those who are wicked or unbelieving to have no hope (cf. 1Thess. 4:13), because those outside of Christ have no hope (Eph. 2:12). Our hope must be in God.

These steadfast patriarchs hoped in God's word. God only gave them promises from the word of God, yet they responded in obedience. We must hope in God's word as well. David writes in Psalm 119:114, *"I hope in Thy word."* There is hope in the Old Testament: *"For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope"* (Rom/ 15:4). However, the Hebrew writer exclaims that we have a better hope in the New Testament (Heb. 7:19). Let us hope in God's word.

These steadfast patriarchs hoped in God's salvation. They knew if they obeyed God faithfully, they would receive a better country (Heb. 11:16). We are to hope in the salvation found only in Jesus. Paul writes, *"In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began"* (Titus 1:2). Paul describes this hope of salvation in 1 Thessalonians 5:8 as the helmet of our Christian armor, which each of us should strive to have.

The Bible describes this powerful hope as *"an anchor of the soul"* (Heb. 6:17-20). It is listed in the likes of faith and love (1 Cor. 13:13). Because of this, we should rejoice in hope (Rom. 12:12). In a world crumbling around us with sin and despair, let us shine our lights of hope. *"Yet now there is hope..."* (Ezra 10:2).

--Sam Willcutt

From the preacher's heart...

Melissa and I cannot thank you enough for the warm greetings we received after being away for a few weeks! While we enjoyed some time with family in Florida and accomplished several productive things with this latest trip, it was great to “get back home!” Our next scheduled trip is not until mid-July, which will be a combination trip to celebrate our oldest son's graduation from SWSBS and his wedding.

It was so very encouraging to see the rise in attendance numbers recently! I would love to be able to see these numbers begin to rise in each and every category (daily Bible readers, midweek attendance, and such like). Carthage, let's continue to keep up the great work!

Speaking of just such opportunities, we are excited about our annual VBS that will begin next week, June 3-7. We hope you are inviting your friends and neighbors, as well as committing to attending as much as you are able. Of course, we appreciate Andy Rutherford and his cadre of helpers for the work they are doing in putting this great congregational event together.

There are so many exciting ways to become involved, and so many great things happening at Carthage! From the recent baptisms that we have had by Stan Stevenson in the jail ministry, to the opportunities to get involved in JSCYC, to the many ways that we can serve and reach out to those who are less fortunate than we are, it is a great time to be a member at Carthage!

Finally, I have been wanting to praise you in this for a while now, but I am so impressed with the number of men who have been teaching our adult auditorium classes on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings! I have been a member at quite a number of congregations throughout several states, and to see this many of our men step up and take part in the teaching program is quite a testament to how superb this congregation is. Carthage, please don't take this blessing for granted!

I love you all, and may God bless you.

--Sam Willcut

NEWS & NOTES:

SICK: Lola King's oncologist has stopped the chemo treatments. However, she will continue to have the bile-duct stent replaced every four months. Please keep Lola and Buck in your prayers. Brenda Fitts' oncologist has said that the lesions on her brain and the place on her kidney are not cancerous. She does have dementia and prayers are appreciated. She is Carol Woodard's sister-in-law. John Jones is continuing to show some improvements in his health. Barry Harville, Peggy Faustina's dad, had surgery last Sunday due to a mass found on his pancreas and liver. He has been recovering at home, but still covets your prayers. Mariann Willcut, mother of Sam Willcut & Teena Stout, is now at home following a stay in the hospital, in Florida. Prayers have been requested for Emberly O'Conner, a 3-year-old relative of James and Regina Rowland. She has been diagnosed with kidney cancer on both kidneys and started chemo treatments this past Thursday.

BAPTISMS: There were 2 baptisms here at the building last week as a result of the good work of Stan Stevenson and the jail ministry. Chris Bouchard and Christopher Anderson.

Continue to pray for the following: Barbara Silcox; Brenda Copeland; Robert Johnson; Faye Maberry; Lola & Bobby King; Jimmy Fisher; Jerry Hicks; Josie Powell; Helen Davis; James Spivey (Faye Maberry's brother-in-law); Robert Fields; Jerry Martin (cancer); Sherrie Lawrence; Kevin Howell (cancer – taking chemo & radiation treatments); Tucker Brown; Michelle Allen; Eva Louise Holt; Ronnie Glover; Mary Ann Herd; Scott, Jennifer, and Stephen Johnson; Brenda Boyd; Linda Myers; Mikel and Janice Hicks; Cynthia Gibbs; Josephine Fitts; Brenda Fitts; Buckie Parsons; Chuck Jordan; Jerry & Mary Phillips; Hudson Anderson; Annika Oldham; Hannah McDowell; Tom & Sherry Culver; Sharon Halliburton; Colton Ferrell; Janice Wilson; Drew Gallagher; Scott Bane; Brenda Aikens; Janet Rose; Ruby Anderson; Joe Armistead; Todd Smith; John Jones; Brenda Forrest; and Bea Davis. **Please let Kristi know if there is anyone that needs to be added or removed from this list.**

NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING/ SHUT-INS: Ricky Branham (SCHR); Lonetta Bains (Pavilion – Lebanon); Pat Paysinger (Shut-in).

THE MILITARY: Korrey King – USMC (Grandson of Bobby & Lola King); Jana Watson, Ann Carter's granddaughter (Army); Benjamin Gentry (USMC).

“For with God, nothing will be impossible.” – Luke 1:37

AREA EVENTS: *Youth Event* Christians in Action Youth Event at Wilette church of Christ on Sunday, June 2 beginning at 5:30 PM with a meal to follow. **Gospel Meeting** at the Adams Ave. church of Christ in Lebanon with Phil Sanders. June 2-5; Sunday, 6/2 9 & 10 AM, 7:30 PM; Mon.-Wed. 7PM.

EVENTS CALENDAR: **SCHR Devo:** First Sundays of Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. **Vacation Bible School:** June 3-7, 6:30 PM Nightly Theme: “Hall of Fame” **JSCYC** July 14-19. Staff and camper applications are available on the table in the foyer. **Annual Singing** will be held here at Carthage on August 2. Meal at 5:30; Singing at 7:00 PM.

SPIRITUAL SWORD/HOUSE TO HOUSE: The current issues of *The Spiritual Sword* and *House to House, Heart to Heart* are available on the table at the front entrance as well as on the table in the annex. Please pick up a copy for your family.

ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR THE CHURCH?

In the letters to the churches at Rome, Corinth, Colossi and Philippi, the Apostle Paul expressed his deep gratitude for those congregations. He was thankful for their faithfulness, fellowship and spiritual growth. Even though these groups of Christians struggled with temptations and sin, Paul appreciated his relationship with the church.

Can we say the same about ourselves? Are we thankful for the church? If so, how do we express our appreciation? Here are a few ways and reasons we should be eternally grateful for this great institution:

Jesus Christ Died for the Church - Acts 20:28; Eph. 5:24-25

The Benefit of a Spiritual Family - Eph. 3:14-15

Love for One Another is found in the Church - 1Peter 1:22

Forgiveness is Found in Church Fellowship - 1John 1:7

Gratitude Shown by Consistent Fellowship - Acts 2:42

Physical Needs are Met Thru the Church - Acts 4:32

Peace and Harmony is Found in the Church - Rom. 15:5

One Can be Worry-Free in the Church - Phil.4:6-7

Our thankfulness is Shown by Giving - 2 Cor. 9:6-8

Spiritual Support is Found in the Church - James 5:13-16

Good Works Come from the Church – Eph. 2:10

Christ is the Savior of the Church – Eph. 5:23

-Jay Launius, Maud, TX Church of Christ, 2020-

