

### ASSEMBLY TIMES

#### Sunday

Bible Class 9:30  
 Morning Assembly 10:30  
 Evening Assembly 5:00

#### Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

### RADIO PROGRAM

#### The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.  
 KURM 790AM

## Downtown Church of Christ

P.O. Box 447  
 201 W. Chestnut Street  
 Rogers, AR 72757  
 479-636-3575  
 www.downtowncoc.net



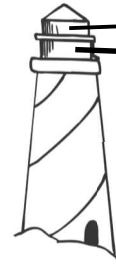
Kneel before God so that  
 you can stand up to  
 anything.

### ELDERS:

Otis Hardin  
 Perry Johnson  
 Ken Parker  
 Alan Revier  
 GW Walsh

### DEACONS:

TJ Burleson  
 Scott Hale  
 Joel Heiligenthal  
 Jason Hill  
 Chris Johnson  
 Brock McKeel  
 Randy Potter  
 Tim Roberts  
 Randy Shell



# DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

**PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY THE DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST  
 ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

September 19, 2021

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

*Preachers we support:* Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

*Sick:* Gary Fletcher, James Swim, Rai Starr, Diane Willis, & Etta Frazelle.

*Shut-ins:* Betty Jo Young, Margaret Abel, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, and

Mary Lou Lewis

*Military:* Logan Dickey, Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**MARRIAGE SEMINAR** this Saturday, September 25 from 9 to 2, by Mark Broyles, will be hosted by the Westside congregation in Springdale.

**SENTENCE SERMON** – Jesus wept at the grave of Lazarus because knowing the end of the story doesn't mean you can't cry at the sad parts.

## Dee's Legacy

Once again death has claimed a friend. Dee Bowman preached a gospel meeting for the Downtown congregation in 2014, as he had done for other churches hundreds of times over the last few decades. It was an encouraging week, as we expected. That's who he was.

Although tempting, I will refrain from reminiscing about the many times we crossed paths – the time he helped our small, struggling congregation in east Texas, the times spent in the Redwood forests of northern California, or touring a military post in central Texas, or tooling around the Ozarks of northwest Arkansas –

always with our wives along for the ride. He will be missed – and our prayers are with Norma and the rest of his family.

But Dee's legacy is much more than his eloquent preaching style and the 'fun times' spent together. Dee left a legacy of kindness, of generosity, and of genuine love and concern for people. He left a legacy of devotion to the word of God, and a desire to help us all develop that same devotion. He left a legacy of patience and gentleness and love and – well, the list could go on. I will miss my friend for now; but I plan to see him again before long.

-wk

## ***A LITTLE LEAVEN*** *by Dee Bowman (1934-2021)*

The great societies of all time have never been demolished and ruined by external forces. Their demise has, almost without exception, occurred from the erosion of their internal powers. Lawlessness, graft, bribery, and general decay in the innermost parts of these governments led to their eventual loss of power and prestige. It all happened a little at a time.

The same may be said of problems and difficulties in the church of our Lord. It has never been possible for outside forces to cause the church to fail. Rather, it has ever been internal causes – unnoticed and unattended – that have taken brethren to apostasy. The gradual diminishing of the demand for scriptural authority has brought about the resultant erosion of the principles of truth, and from that has proceeded the diminishing of attention to scriptural ways for what we do. Such disregard for the demand for Bible authority has eventuated in the slow ‘denominationalizing’ of the church. Such

begins early with a failure to respond to what people see as ‘small’ deviations from the Scriptures.

And individually, if you are giving your time to worldly things and not to spiritual things, that little leaven may have serious consequences. Do you take time to pray? Do you find time to study your Bible? How’s your spiritual life? For instance, if you’re more interested in your progress at the workplace than in your spiritual progress, you’re not only allowing a ‘small’ neglect to gain a foothold on your continued spiritual development, but you could be hindering the spiritual growth and maturation of your family. Both of those matters are serious matters.

Neglect begins small and grows gradually, but it’s no less neglect when it’s small than when it reaches an obvious problem. Neglect of your own spiritual worth, and neglect of that of your family, start with small deviations – deviations which eventually become large spiritual considerations. “A little leaven...” – oh well, you know. *(edited for space)*

## **Another Perspective**

## **Looking Beyond**

As you get up and begin your day, take a good look around. Nothing much has changed since yesterday. The world is fraught with challenges and difficulties. The Covid pandemic rages. Political opinions and vitriol reign. Regimes fall and sabers are rattled by those still standing. Dishonesty will impact someone today and sexual immorality will likely affect a man or woman for years to come. Social upheaval. Violence. Financial uncertainty. Hatred, strife, turmoil – even among families and spiritual brethren – over everything from masks and vaccines to conspiracy theories and economic philosophies. And by the end of the day, death will continue to take its victims by various means.

Is this where you have put your hope?

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” (1 Pe 1:3-5)

Wake up folks. Look beyond this world. On this side of eternity, it will never be the way we want it to be. Those of us who are following Jesus need to stop trying to fix America and start pointing America to the Lord. One person at a time. No one will come to Christ because of our politics or our Covid stance. But a city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Let’s be lights. The world is dark enough without our temporality.

Thus endeth the rant.

– *Russ Bowman, on the death of his father, Dee*