

## 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



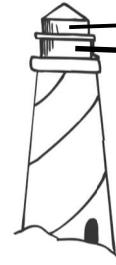
**Love – it's a language  
everyone understands.**

## 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**

January 9, 2022

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

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

*Sick:* Gary Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Rai Starr, and Diane Willis

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

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

**OUR SYMPATHY** – Our sympathy is extended to the family of Jo Edwards, who recently passed away. Let's remember Ken & the family in our prayers.

**WELCOME** – We welcome Treva Combs to our number at Downtown! Let's remember to make our new members welcome into our family!

## Pick to the Stick

Back in the days following the Civil War, and before the invention of a cotton picking machine (in the early twentieth century), foremen struggled to motivate their hired hands to pick cotton. Looking out over a field of snow white cotton as far as the eye could see, workers became discouraged (literally, “a loss of courage”). But foremen soon learned to throw a stick ahead of the laborers. “Just pick to the stick,” they would say. Picking to

the stick was much more doable than picking cotton to an endless horizon.

And so it is in life. For example, some Christians hesitate to start a Bible-reading program because — well, that's a big book! The pages, like the cotton field, seem to go on forever. But countless Bible-reading programs are out there (especially this time of year). Choose one, and then ‘pick to the stick’. Focus on reading the first selection only, and do the same the next day, and the >

next, and the next. It's very doable, and it will benefit you greatly (2 Ti 3:16-17). And this time next year, you will have read the entire Bible!

Our struggle against Satan can also seem impossible at times — especially considering the span of one's life. But we just need to take one day at a time. As one AA brochure encourages its readers, "Just for today, I will get through this day only, and not tackle my whole life problem at once. I can do something for twelve hours that would overwhelm me if I felt I had to keep it up for a lifetime."

Jesus taught the same. "Do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Mt 6:34). This principle works for other addictive and sinful behaviors as well. It can seem daunting to 'walk the walk' every day until the day you die. So just 'pick to the stick'. Get it right today, and deal with tomorrow tomorrow.

And finally, the same principle holds true in our desire for heaven. Every child of God — sooner or later — longs for that home where God "will wipe away every tear" (Re 21:4). Yet, like the seemingly endless cotton fields, our life under the sun may seem to go on forever. But like the cotton fields, it doesn't. We may 'pick to the stick' day after day, month after month, and year after year. But the day will come when the Foreman will throw the stick into the woods at the edge of the field — and the work will be done. As Jesus promised, "The night is coming when no man can work" (Jn 9:4). It's just a matter of time.

Until then, labor in the fields with a smile on your face, a song in your heart, an encouraging word for your fellow laborers, and a joyful expectation of that promised rest (He 4:9). And just for today — pick to the stick!

- *WKing*

## And One More

## The Influence of a Godly Woman

Once again, our congregation has suffered the loss of a sweet sister in Christ. In recent years, we have lost several of these aged (and sometimes no-so-aged) women. The sense of loss to the congregation is surpassed only by the sense of loss to their families — their husbands in particular.

But while they have left a huge hole in our hearts, they have also left a legacy — a legacy of kind-heartedness, gentleness, faithfulness, devotion to family, and devotion to the Lord. It's impossible to calculate the influence of such women. Like the woman of Proverbs 31, "Her children rise up and call her blessed; Her husband also, and he praises her" (vs 28).

None were perfect — nor would they claim to be. But the tenor of their life was in step with the Lord. They walked with Him, and such a legacy will endure for generations to come. Like Lois and Eunice (2 Ti 1:5), their examples of faith will bear fruit in their children, and grandchildren, and beyond. Their ability to remain kind and to smile, even though often in the throes of debilitating physical trials, will always be a reminder to those who knew them that even in suffering, God's children have much to be grateful for.

And so, to their husbands and children whom they have left behind, our prayers are truly with you. Just know that their influence will live on even into eternity. Like the example of Abel, the first to suffer physical death, "he being dead still speaks" (He 11:4). As long as we have memory, these godly women will speak to us through the examples of their lives.

- *WKing*