

## 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

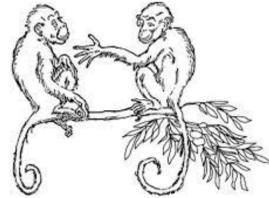


Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.  
KURM 790AM

## Downtown Church of Christ

P.O. Box 447  
201 W. Chestnut Street  
Rogers, AR 72757

479-636-3575  
www.downtowncoc.net



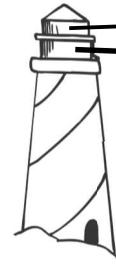
**Lesson from the animal  
kingdom: Don't monkey  
around with another  
monkey's monkey.**

## 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**

May 29, 2022

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

*Preachers we support:* Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.  
*Sick:* Gary Fletcher, Tony Tolbert, Rai Starr, Diane Willis, Js Swim, Tricia Deen  
*Shut-ins:* Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis  
*Military:* Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**WELCOME** – We welcome our two new members, Jeanie Adkins and Dillon Foust! Make it a point to meet these folks and make them feel welcomed!

**NEW TRAINEES** – We also look forward to having Hayden Cathey and Sam Bunyard with us in our preacher training program starting June 1.

## Charlie

He first showed up on my radar screen in the early '80's. My father-in-law and brother-in-law had just started a small church on the far northwest side of Houston in a largely undeveloped area. They had built a log cabin and already had several members. Then one Sunday, Charlie walked through the door.

He was still young and muscular – a recent convert (thanks to John M. Kilgore and the grace of God), and he was overflowing with zeal. He had been a worldly man, with all its vices – but when he turned his life over to Christ, all of that came to an end. His wife left him for another man when he refused to continue

his worldly lifestyle. He soon found a Christian woman, struggling to raise four children on her own. He married her and became a rock for his new family.

My B-I-L decided it would be a good learning experience for the small congregation to stage a mock debate between Charlie and me on the subject of the work of the Holy Spirit. Charlie would play devil's advocate. I had been preaching less than ten years at the time, but figured this would be a cake walk. It wasn't. Charlie knowingly preached his 'position' with all the zeal of a Pentecostal preacher. I learned two valuable lessons that day: 1) never >

overestimate my own abilities, and 2) never underestimate Charlie. (He went on to explain to the audience why his message was wrong.)

He began to do some preaching around, but some years later he decided to go preach in Russia. He and his devoted wife spent more than fifteen years there (and in Kazakhstan) spreading the message of the kingdom in a largely godless society. He grew a long beard and was said to look more Russian than most real Russians – until he opened his mouth. But he learned the language and continued to stay in touch with those brethren even after moving back to the states.

Then one day in central Texas tragedy struck. He was 40 feet up in a tree, trimming branches, when a limb snapped, and he fell to the ground. The fall would have killed most people, but not Charlie. He was life-flighted to a premier hospital in Temple. I was with him in the emergency room when the doctors told him that he had broken his back and would never walk again. He didn't flinch. In fact, I could see the wheels turning in his

head, "Is it possible to preach from a wheelchair?" He soon answered his own question. Yes, it is.

And so, for the remainder of his years, he preached the gospel from a wheelchair. He never was angry with God. He never asked why. He just continued to be God's servant, spreading the good news of the kingdom and of the grace of God. And he lived what he preached.

Some preachers preach for money; some preachers preach for the praise. Faithful gospel preachers preach to serve the kingdom, doing what they can in their little part of the world to make a difference in the lives of people. They preach because their conscience will not allow them to not preach. That's the kind of preacher Charlie was. May God grant His people to be blessed with more preachers like Charlie Gant.

He will be missed by all who knew him and loved him and appreciated his devotion to the Lord. He will be missed by me – and I will always count him among my heroes.

- *WKing*

## Another Perspective

## Who We Are: Our Vision for the Real County Church

*The following is taken from the webpage of the Real County congregation, the last church Charlie Gant worked with.*

Recognizing fully our shortcomings, we hold this vision of what we should be and what we want to be:

Committed – A church where every member is committed to serve the Lord Jesus. We show this by the way we live day by day.

Worshipful – A church that praises and worships God heartily. We gladly meet frequently and consistently to offer praise to Him.

Loving – A church that is truly a family. We take time to know each other, and we take care of and depend on each other.

Growing & Learning – A church where every member is growing and helping others to grow. We are willing to grow by following after truth rather than tradition. We welcome and foster open dialogue in pursuit of truth. We value learning from each other. We recognize our responsibility to be both teacher and learner as the occasion demands.

Serving – A church where every member uses their talents to serve others. We recognize that each one of us has a gift from God which should be used to serve the needs of others, whether in the assemblies or away from them.

Evangelistic – A church that reaches out warmly to unbelievers. We are active in reaching out not only to those in our community, but to people around the world.

- *RealCountyChurch.org (edited for space)*