

## Light and Life

## Churches that Work

American culture has created a corrupt consumer Christianity which exalts leadership to a position of being responsible for all the work – all the evangelism, the teaching, the accountability, the caring for the needy. The church doesn't work – only those 'on staff'. That's not God's design!

It's not our goal in this church to provide a service for the consumer. It is our goal to spend as much time together as possible, “not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as [we] see the Day approaching” (Heb. 10:25)!

Antioch is where disciples were first called Christians (Ac. 11:26). This designation was well-earned, as the gospel was spread there with such success that news travelled to Jerusalem and attracted the attention of Barnabas and Paul (vs20-25). When Jerusalem was threatened by famine, “the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren” (v29). Though there were elders in Antioch (v30), the preaching and teaching was done by several men: Barnabas, Simeon, Lucius, Manaen, and Paul (13:1). The entire congregation gathered to hear Paul's report about his missionary journey (14:27). The whole congregation was invested in the work!

Disciples in Thessalonica were met with persecution instantly upon their conversion (17:5). But even in this environment, they “became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place.”

It is amazing what God's people can accomplish when “every part does its share” (Eph. 4:16)! It is when we recognize that the purpose of local “evangelists, pastors and teachers” is to “equip the saints for the work” that we can really grow! (vs11-12)! We must be a church that works!

- Sam Bunyard

## Another Perspective

## My Commitment

“When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose... And a great many people were added to the Lord” (Ac 11:23-24).

My commitment is NOT to the church of Christ! I preach at the University church of Christ, but my loyalty does not lie with University, or with any denomination known as the “Church of Christ.”

I'm committed to Christ and not the church, because only Christ saves. The church does not save; it IS the saved.

I realize that most of my readers go to churches that, at the very least, profess to be non-denominational, New Testament churches. Let's make sure that our behavior matches our profession. It's possible to follow unwritten creeds while rejecting formal professions of faith. When some of our comfortable traditions may need to be changed, it's tempting to fall in line with the majority.

On the other side of this, we must avoid the temptation to stir the pot just to prove our independence. Iconoclasts are as guilty of the worship of self as traditionalists are. Pride is present in both camps.

The solution? Keep our eyes on Jesus!

Father God, forgive us of denominational loyalty! Remind us that we are Yours and Yours alone.

- David Maxson



## ASSEMBLY TIMES

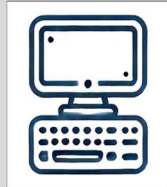
### Sunday

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

### Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

## Find Us Online!



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& on Facebook

## DOWNTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST

P.O. Box 447  
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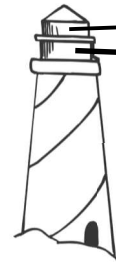
Atheism – a fairy story for  
people afraid of the light.

## ELDERS:

Otis Hardin  
Perry Johnson  
Ken Parker  
Alan Revier  
GW Walsh

## DEACONS:

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



# DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

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## The Impactful Life

The largest funeral I ever preached was in a high school auditorium in front of 800 people. It was for a young Christian man around 18 years old. The smallest have been for people I never met, who had no friends, and were done as a favor for the local funeral director – three attendees including me and my wife.

It is no surprise when a large crowd turns out to pay their respects for someone who has had an impact in their life. Like the Jews who came to console the sisters of dead Lazarus (Jn 11:31), we want to acknowledge the difference they have made in our lives. And we want to assure their loved ones of that impact as well.

But what makes a person impactful? Why do some people impact us more than others? Large families, lots of friends, visibility in the community (or beyond) – all of these will certainly affect the number of people who show up at your funeral. But there is more.

The person who is genuinely kind and compassionate, because of their loyalty to Jesus, will have a great impact on all who know them, whether many or few (Pr 10:7, etc.)  
**- because they make a difference.**

So, thank you, Alex, for the impact you have had on so many – for now and for eternity.

- *WKing*

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

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

*Sick:* Swims, JMarshall, RStarr, MiBader, JTerrell

*Shut-ins:* SCole, SWiese, VCarter, KHeilighenthal, TrDeen

*Military:* Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**IMPORTANT DATES:** Vacation Bible School, Jul 13-17 Colton McDaniel,  
Youth Weekend, Aug 1-3 Chuck Durham

**OUR SYMPATHY** – Our sympathy is extended to Missie Corder and the rest of the family at the passing of her son, Alex.