

## TIME OF SERVICES

### Sunday:

**Bible Classes** 10:00 a.m.

**Worship Service** 11:00

**Worship Service** a.m. 6:00 p.m.

### Wednesday:

**Bible Classes** 7:00 p.m.

### Preacher & Editor

Dick Blackford

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**THE BIBLE AND THE BIBLE ONLY, MAKES  
CHRISTIANS AND CHRISTIANS ONLY.  
THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IS COMPOSED  
OF CHRISTIANS WHO HAVE NOT  
JOINED A DENOMINATION.**

# StoneRidge Church of Christ

where CHRIST is the chief cornerstone

1 Peter 2:7



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## An Invitation

**One night I dreamed** I died and went to heaven. I heard songs and was asked to join a huge group that was singing. There were 1000 sopranos, 1000, altos, 1000 tenors and only one bass – me. We reached a crescendo, which called for as much volume as we could muster. Right in the middle of it the conductor stopped and said, “Brother Blackford, pu-leez, a little softer on the bass!”

Well, that didn’t really happen. But sometimes I sing too loud. Sometimes I sing the wrong verse when everybody else is singing the right one. I hate when that happens. And those times when I sing too loud seem to always happen when I’m singing the wrong verse! I enjoy singing, but I’ve got to stay in my place and sing with the group.

When I was younger and much of a dreamer, I imagined what it would be like to be the conductor of a huge orchestra and chorus. I never made it, but I have done something that far exceeded those dreams. There is scarcely anything more rewarding than directing the hearts and voices of children in vacation Bible school! Their bright eyes, smiling faces, enthusiasm, and volume (!) do more for me than being an orchestra conductor could ever do. Children who are eager to learn and unashamed to sing of their faith are worth more than gold.

Another opportunity a few years ago reminded me of some of our heavenly benefits. I returned to my hometown to direct 17 grandchildren as they sang at the funeral of their grandmother. It hadn’t been long since we had done the same at their grandfather’s funeral. Surely, the angels couldn’t have sung sweeter. →

from front page

One of the most touching and memorable occasions was when I spoke at the funeral of a little girl. It was difficult to keep my composure as children slowly sang the cherished children's hymn, "Jesus loves me, this I know."

Singing fits many occasions. We sing when we are sad, and we sing when we are happy. Paul and Silas sang after having been beaten and imprisoned unjustly (Acts 16). "Is any cheerful? Let him sing praise" (Jn 5:13). In John's heavenly vision he saw victorious saints singing the song of Moses and the Lamb (Rev 15:3). Some were depicted as singing "a new song" (Rev 5:9; 14:3).

Those who miss heaven will miss one of the greatest joys for having chosen the sounds of wailing and gnashing of teeth over the song of victory.

One of the reasons we sing today is to encourage people to obey the gospel. It is difficult to understand why anyone would reject the invitation. It is the strange mercy of our God that he continues to linger while "sweetly the tones are falling." We sing a number of hymns that express in words better than we could the need and urgency for you to obey the gospel. I often wonder how anyone could resist. But ever so often there is a breakthrough. And perhaps at the next worship service, as we sing, there will be a tender heart that is touched by the message and will break out of the bonds of sin and declare their faith in Jesus Christ. Will it be you? -db. TRUTH MAGAZINE, 12/21/2000

### **Fearless**

**"What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee"** (Ps 56:3).

"The only thing to fear is fear itself." This is a nice platitude, but it is altogether pointless without trust. There is no antidote to fear except to trust in one who can deliver us from the thing we fear.

The **first** mention of fear in the Bible is significant. Adam said to God, "I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid" (Gen 3:10). Indeed, one should be afraid when he has ignored or rejected God's word, for "it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands

## *News/Notes/Quotes*

**THE SICK.** I haven't received any updates on any who are sick, but we were glad to see **Beth Cossey** and **Beverly Allen** at services last Sunday!... **Donald Crisler** continues his treatment for cancer... Remember our shut-ins: **Madonna Vines** is confined at home. **Gail Brooks** and **Rita Kieffer** are both at St. Bernard Village... **Shirley Coots** at Lawrence County Nursing (hospice care)... **Joyce Riley** is at St. Elizabeth's Place... **Charles Bradsher** at Craighead County Nursing Home... Continue to remember all of these in your prayers.

### **GOSPEL MEETINGS**

August 4-5 – Ladies Bible Study – Hwy. 5 – Mountain Home AR

### **GROUP MEETINGS**

**Group 2** will meet on July 30 at the Blackfords', 5:30 pm.

### **Fearless..continued**

*of the living God"* (Heb 10:31). The same warning is given in the Bible's **final** reference to fear. "*But the fearful, and unbelieving, ... shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death*" (Rev 21:8).

In contrast, note the **last** mention of fear in the OT and the **first** in the NT, both speaking of the entrance of the Son of God into the world. "*But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings*" (Mal 4:2). "*Fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: She shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins*" (Mt 1:20,21).

Thus, the remedy for the fear of man or anything else is the true fear of the Lord. "*I sought the LORD, and He heard me, and delivered me from all my fears*" (Ps 34:4). He has already endured everything we could ever fear, even death, that He might "*deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage*" (Heb 2:15). Therefore, since "*the LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?*" (Ps.27:1).

**Take the Lord with you wherever you go. And if you can't take him with you, Don't go!**

**Remember the steam kettle! Though up to its neck in hot water, it continues to sing.**



***If every member were just like you, would we need to build more seats or close the doors?***

