

**Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:**

Joni McConnell is back home and is receiving therapy twice per week, but now has a pinched nerve and severe carpal tunnel in both hands.

Iris Hash's son, Bobby Epeards, is at home recovering from a second heart attack.

Delores Hendrickson is still struggling with a bad cough but is doing better.

Charlie Henard's niece, Brittany Henard, is battling terminal cancer.

Karen Sproles is still dealing with pain in her knee.

Jean England, daughter of Karen Sproles, is still having stomach issues.

John Richardson is battling with bloating and stomach issues.

Ken Roosa's sister, Sandy Twigg, who is a member of the Stop 11 Rd. Church of Christ, is scheduled for surgery on October 15<sup>th</sup> to remove a spot on her lung..

Following removal, a biopsy will be performed

**Pray For Our Shut-Ins:**

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, John & Terry Richardson

**Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:**

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru). See latest mission reports on the bulletin board in the back of the auditorium.

**Deepest Sympathy:**

Our thoughts and prayers go out to brother Jessie Riddle at the passing of his cousin, Sue Dubree, who was a faithful member of the Stop 11 Road Church of Christ.

Services were held last week in Greenwood.

**October Benevolent Opportunity:**

For the month of October, we will be collecting boxes/packages of potato mixes (au gratin, scalloped, mashed, etc.) and gravy (mixes and jars) in preparation for Thanksgiving to stock the MSD of Martinsville food pantry for needy families.

**Gospel Meeting:**

The Eagle Valley Church of Christ is hosting a gospel meeting October 20 – 24.

Rick Leach will be doing the speaking. Services will be Sunday at 9 AM, 10 AM and 6 PM and Monday through Thursday at 7 PM.

**Men's Business Meeting:**

The next men's business meeting will be Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.

**Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:**

Our next pitch-in dinner will be today, following the AM services. Following the pitch-in, at 1:00 PM, we will have a service in song.

**Annual Fish Fry:**

We will be having our annual church fish fry on Saturday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM at the Martinsville City Park..

**Radio Program:**

Please remember to tune in every Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to WCBK 102.3 FM to hear our radio program which is entitled: "Preparing For Eternity".

**God's Plan For Our Salvation**

Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).

Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).

Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).

Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).

Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).

Faithful Christian Living, after the above five steps (I Peter 2:11, 12; Rev. 2:10).

October 6, 2024

***MORGAN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST***

**540 E. Morgan Street  
Martinsville, IN 46151  
(765) 342-6027**



**Schedule of Services:**

**Sunday**

Bible Study – 9:30 AM

Worship – 10:30 AM

Evening Service - 6:00

**Wednesday**

Bible Study – 6:00 PM

**Thursday**

Ladies' Bible Study – 11:00 AM (March through October)

**Radio Program:**

“Preparing For Eternity”

Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

**Website:**

[www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org](http://www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org)

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

## IS THE LORD'S CHURCH DYING? #1

It is generally acknowledged that the churches of Christ comprised the fastest growing religious body in the United States from 1946 to 1965. In the late 1960s growth gradually began to slow down. This decline has continued to the present day. As a result, prophets of doom have been predicting that sometime in the not too distant future, churches of Christ may cease to exist. A leading newspaper among us featured a series of articles not long ago about once flourishing churches which were no longer meeting. Self-styled "progressives" among us say that we must make some major changes or we will die. Is the Lord's church really in danger of dying? The answer, I believe, is a resounding "NO!"

The church Jesus built and bought with His precious blood will stand as long as this world will stand. Jesus said: "*The seed is the Word of God*" (Luke 8:11). As long as one has the seed, he can plant it and it will produce after its kind (Gen. 1:11-12). Regarding the Word of God, our Lord stated: "*Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will by no means pass away*" (Matt. 24:35). The apostle Peter, quoting the inspired words of the prophet Isaiah, wrote: "*...the word of the Lord endures forever*" (1 Peter 1:25). As long as we have the Word of God, we will have the church of Christ!

The Jewish leaders who rejected the Christ and crucified Him, did their utmost to destroy the church, but failed as the book of Acts abundantly testifies. The mighty Roman Empire tried to destroy the church for two hundred and fifty years and utterly failed. In the second century, Tertullian told the Roman oppressors: "We multiply whenever we are mown down by you; the blood of Christians is seed." Hans Grimm, a brother in Christ who welcomed American missionaries to Germany following World War II, wrote a history of the churches of Christ which had existed for centuries in Central Europe. Keith Sisman, a preacher of the Gospel in Cambridge, England, in his book, *Traces of the Kingdom*, documented the existence of churches of Christ that flourished in the Middle Ages in the British Isles for centuries in spite of persecution by the Roman Catholics and later the Anglicans. The Lord's church will be in existence when the Lord comes again for those who "*are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air*" (1 Thess.

4:17).

The prophets of doom who speak of the disappearance of the Lord's church have a narrow vision of the church because they tend to think of it only in terms of the United States. They simply lack world vision (Matt. 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 1:8). The simple fact of the matter is that the Lord's church is growing by leaps and bounds worldwide! This writer lived and preached in Zambia for seven years and has made many shorter missionary journeys into several other African nations. The growth of the Lord's church in Africa is simply amazing! Nigeria has been an especially fruitful nation and today has as many congregations as we have in the United States. In 2002, a professor who researched the growth of the church in Nigeria, revealed there were more than a million members of the church in Sub Sahara Africa. The number would be much larger today.

India is now the most heavily populated nation in the world. It also has more members of churches of Christ than any other nation on earth! A former professor of missions at a Christian university stated that India has some two million members of churches of Christ. Some who have worked extensively in India for many years have told me they estimate the church in India is twice the size of the church in the USA. One brother who has been part of a mission team in India for the past 34 years maintains a database with records and addresses of some 20,000 congregations in that land. He says many others exist which are not included. He estimates that India has more churches of Christ than the combined number of congregations in North, Central and South America. Robert Hall, a member of one of the forty-four mission teams which work regularly in India, reported that: "In 2023 our Indian brethren in the first ten months of 2023 baptized an average of more than 875 per day, and the retention rate is more than 75% of those who are baptized."

When we speak of the growth of the Lord's church, we must look at the big picture in order to get the full understanding. The churches of Christ are made up of the worldwide body of Christians. I have been an avid reader of missionary reports, articles and books for more than sixty-five years. Based on this, I believe a conservative estimate of the number of members of the Lord's church today would be well in excess of five million souls although only the Lord really knows how many are truly His . -- Rod Rutherford