



## Clay's Corner

*"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, **not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some**, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." - Hebrews 10:23-25, ESV*

In the world of proof texting, this excerpt of scripture, "not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some" is one of the more common to be used to coerce people into believing that if they do not gather at the church building every time the door is open that they will surely burn in the fires of hell. I've heard it all my life and have even used it in the past to shame others into coming to the church building every time the doors are open. And I was wrong to do so. The idea of wanting to meet together as often as possible was not wrong. What was wrong was shaming others into thinking they were sinning when it was convenient for me to meet and not them. Somehow, we've taken an American tradition, made it a scriptural edict and judged those who do not participate. That is wrong.

Taken out of context, I have found over the years that I can use scripture to justify any and every stance I desire to take, concerning any subject I desire to debate. What I have also found over the years is to do so, is tantamount to becoming one of the false teachers which Peter warned about in 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Chapter 2.

I said all of that to say this, the change we are about to make in our worship schedule is apt to cause some to refer back to this scripture to make their stand. I understand. I really do. It was not an easy decision to make, breaking an American church tradition that has stood the test of time for almost a hundred years out of almost two thousand years of church history. But the decision to take our second meeting time out of the building and into the homes of those around us was made after much prayer and searching for an alternative means to accomplish the goals of our church; reaching out to the lost among us, strengthening those who are weak and encouraging those who are hurting.

But to take this excerpt of scripture out of the context of which it was written will only create strife and contention and do nothing to fulfill the full commands of this passage; to stir one another up to love and good works, encouraging one another as we hold fast to the confession of our hope. Think about it. Are you an encourager or a discourager? Did you cling to traditions or cling to the hope that is ours in Christ Jesus?

Already I know of one small family group that will be using Sunday evening as a means to rebuild a family's faith through the use of a small group study. Good things are happening! And I am encouraged by what I see and hear from those who are involved in living the life of Christ and sharing His love. If you would like to start a small group in your house, to build your family faith and to reach out to your neighbors come talk to me, I'll help you set it up and even get you started. Let's begin again, a new / old tradition that dates back to the early days of the church when thousands were being added to their numbers daily.

## PRAYER LIST

- **Monty Allen** (Susan Barnick's friend's brother—cancer)
- **Pauline Alvarez** (knee pain, upcoming surgery Nov. 10)
- **Lauren Babb** (recovering from surgery)
- **Brooke Bertling** (Haley Ratliff's friend—breast cancer)
- **Ty Brooks** (Winegearts' grandson—recovering from ankle surgery)
- **Dawn Clark** (Shirley Kuchynka's daughter)
- **Betty Cox** (Brent Barnick's sister—homebound, rheumatoid arthritis)
- **David Davis** (Joyce Faires's brother—job hunting)
- **Eric Davis and Rose**
- **Helen Davis** (recovering from hip surgery)
- **Joyce Faires** (knee)
- **Lance Fougerat**
- **The Fritsch Family**
- **Keith Glass** (health)
- **Chestly Gobar, Jordyn and Lucy**
- **Birkley Havel** (Linds' granddaughter—allergies)
- **Mrs. Johnson** (Susan Barnick's boss—cancer)
- **Victoria Johnson** (health)
- **Jacque Jungbauer** (Moerbes' friend—recovering from back surgery)
- **Katy and Family** (Kelly Mason's friends—Katy's sister injured in motorcycle accident)
- **Evlynn Lawrence** (Sweeneys' granddaughter)
- **Justen Lawrence**
- **Megan Mason** (Clay and Mary's daughter—bulging disc)
- **Claudia Morris** (Perry Winegeart's sister—health)
- **Sid Roberts** (Faireses' friend—ICU, Breckenridge Hospital in Austin)
- **Lewis Romain and the country of Dominica** (storm damage)
- **Ruth** (Joyce Faires's sister-in-law)
- **Sharon Saint** (Zach Babb's mother—recovering from surgeries)
- **The family of Carolyn Teague** (Jennell Bansom's sister)
- **Maria Vasquez** (Joyce Faires's neighbor—health)
- **Barbara Walls** (Mary Mason's sister-in-law—broken leg)

If you have any announcements or prayer requests you wish to have included in the bulletin or to sign up for weekly e-mail updates, please contact Victoria Johnson: 325-518-9205, [victoriawjohnson@outlook.com](mailto:victoriawjohnson@outlook.com).

## PRAYER UPDATES

**Lance Fougerat** was scheduled to be released from the Transitional Center in Del Valle on Friday, October 16, at 12:01 a.m.!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Youth & Family Outing: ACU Football in San Antonio

Make plans to attend the ACU football game against Incarnate Word in San Antonio **this Saturday, Oct. 24!** The ACU Alumni Association is hosting a pre-game party (free food) at noon, prior to the 2 p.m. game kickoff. The party is free, but registration is required. Tickets for the game are \$7. Please sign up in the foyer **today**, if you plan to attend.

### Directories Are Coming!

We are in the process of putting together new directories with updated pictures and information. Please sign up in the foyer for a picture time. Picture days start next Sunday! Picture days are Sunday, Oct. 25, Wednesday, Oct. 28, Sunday, Nov. 1, and Wednesday, Nov. 3.

### Fellowship Meal

**Next Sunday, October 25**, is our monthly fellowship meal immediately following morning worship service. Please bring a dish to share, if you are able.

### Singing at The Heights

**Next Sunday, October 25**, is our monthly singing at The Heights nursing home (701 N Sarah Dewitt Drive) at 3:30 p.m. Please join us!

### Men's Meeting

**Next Sunday, October 25**, the men have their monthly meeting at 4:30 p.m.

### All-Church Fall Costume Party

Mark your calendars and plan to attend our all-church fall costume party on **Saturday, Oct. 31** at the Hendershots. The party will be in the evening. Everyone (adults, too) is encouraged to wear their costumes! More details to follow.

### Tuesday Morning Men's Meeting

All men are invited to the annex each Tuesday morning at 6:20 a.m. for a time of breakfast, prayer and fellowship.

### Encounter LE

Lubbock Christian University is hosting Encounter LE, a spiritual retreat, **November 20-22**. The retreat is free, including reservation and meals. Housing is not provided. For more information, please see the postcard on the Youth & Family bulletin board or visit [ww.LCUCamps.com](http://ww.LCUCamps.com).

### Mark Your Calendars

- Nov. 20—ISF Thanksgiving Meal

## YOUTH ZONE



**SUNDAY, OCT. 18**  
**SOFTBALL**  
**GONZALES SELECT @ SEGUIN FALL BASH**

**MONDAY, OCT. 19**  
**VOLLEYBALL**  
**GONZALES 7TH "B" V. CUERO, 5 P.M.**  
**GONZALES 7TH "A" V. CUERO, 6 P.M.**  
**SHINER JR HIGH V. WAELDER, 5 P.M.**  
**TUESDAY, OCT. 20**  
**SOCCER**  
**SHINER YOUTH TEAM A V. TEAM C, 6 P.M.**



Hunter Babb—Shiner Youth Soccer Team A  
Callie Chrismon—The Bulls  
Jacy Chrismon—Shiner Jr High VB  
Rae Anna Flores—Gonzales Select Softball



**THURSDAY, OCT. 22**  
**FOOTBALL**  
**GONZALES FR @ LAVERNIA, 5 P.M.**  
**GONZALES 8TH "B" V. LAVERNIA, 6:30 P.M.**  
**FRIDAY, OCT. 23**  
**GONZALES VARSITY FOOTBALL V. LAVERNIA, 7:30 PM.**  
**SATURDAY, OCT. 24**  
**SOCCER**  
**THE BULLS, 9:30 A.M.**  
**OCT. 24-25**  
**SOFTBALL**  
**GONZALES SELECT @ HUBER RANCH MONSTER BASH**



Fernando Garcia—Gonzales 8th "B" FB  
Cole Hendershot—Gonzales Fr FB  
Tyler Hendershot—Gonzales Varsity Football  
Coach Kevin Johnson—Gonzales 7th VB