

Clay's Corner

I spoke this last Wednesday evening in Rockdale, Texas, to the youth group at Murray Street Church of Christ. It was a great event, the last of a four-part series of lessons from Exodus centered on finding God in the "Smoke" and learning His expectations for us once we come to know Him. There were 28 junior high and high school kids, and about a dozen adult sponsors and parents in attendance. Of the 28 young people, 17 were Murray Street's children, the rest were visitors, friends who had been invited by members. I was very impressed but not surprised by the turnout.

I say that because of two things, maybe three. First of all, the youth program in Rockdale is brand new. It is headed by my good friend Jason Hale. Jason is a 2001 graduate from SIBI in Lubbock and the father of two grown children. He studied family ministry while at Sunset and has spent the last 15 years ministering to young people. Before that, and sometimes during these last 15 years, he was also a teacher in the public school systems. Wherever he has gone, his work has produced fruit for the Kingdom of God, thus I say I am not surprised that the youth group at Murray Street is growing.

I was impressed at the turnout, however, in that I knew two things before I left. The youth ministry at Murray is practically brand new; as in less than six months old. And this series of four lessons was just the second series of lessons featuring specific ideas, centered around a common theme focused on producing specific fruit among their young people. The first series of four lessons were taught by Jason himself, while this second group of lessons was led by Jason, but featured one other youth minister from around the region and pulpit ministers (myself being one of them, Blan Chrane from the Franklin, Texas Church of Christ and Murray Street's Jason Hollinger being the other) speaking to the topics at hand.

The other thing I knew before I left is that the first lesson in the first series of lessons was attended by only four or five teens. Jason tells me that he is pretty sure they were there only because of curiosity and the fact that their parents made them go. The second lesson in that series saw an increase of 100% attendance and each subsequent lesson has seen an increase in attendance, including this last Wednesday evening when I spoke. These kids are telling their friends about the good things that are going on at Murray Street Church of Christ and their friends are coming to see for themselves what it is all about. Last night, there were 11 visitors. Some were churching. Others were not.

The third thing I knew before I spoke was that the youth program had not been a budgeted item for Murray Street at the beginning of the year. There was no money to budget for it. But there was a need for the program. There had always been a need for the program. But there was no money. Until one individual spoke up and funded the whole thing for a year as a "test" project to see if they could get it off the ground and make it work. Their preacher, Jason Hollinger, Jason Hale's best friend recommended they call JaHa (that's what he is known by at Lake Cisco Christian Camp, while Jason Hollinger is known by JaHo) and get it started. And they did. And it's working. And it will continue to work because there is a huge field of unharvested souls waiting for the harvesters.

Now I said all that to say this, we too have a great opportunity before us and we have a young couple, Kevin and Victoria Johnson, who are dedicated to the task of leading our young people to great things in the Lord. And while a youth program is not usually the only thing that makes any "growing church" a "great church", you'll not find many "growing churches" without one. That's just a fact. So I am going to ask that we all spend a lot of time in prayer for our youth workers and do all we can to support them in their work. It's not an easy job competing with all the other activities and distractions the world has to offer. But, the rewards of such a program for our young people and our congregation are far greater than most people realize. I challenge you all, do what you can to encourage and support our youth group as we seek to reach out to the children of Gonzales and surrounding areas! Until He Comes - Clay

PRAYER LIST

- **Pauline Alvarez** (recovering from knee surgery)
- **Cheryl Anstead and Stormy** (Cheryl Pitts's friends—health)
- **Lauren Babb** (health)
- **Larry Barnett** (Jacob White's friend—recovering from bike accident)
- **Brooke Bertling** (Haley Ratliff's friend—breast cancer)
- **Sonny Bransom** (recovering from hip replacement)
- **Fred Bray** (Weavers' friend—health)
- **Dawn Clarke** (Shirley Kuchynka's daughter)
- **Betty Cox** (Brent Barnick's sister—homebound, rheumatoid arthritis)
- **Eric Davis and Rose**
- **Dixie** (Debbie Faires's mother—Alzheimer's)
- **Bill Ellison**
- **Everett** (Joyce Faires's great-grandson—health)
- **Ben Faires** (Joyce Faires's grandson)
- **Rea' Anna Flores** (broken collar bone)
- **Leon Giesecke** (Jan Moerbe's father—throat cancer)
- **Chestly Gobar, Jordyn and Lucy**
- **Tomas Gomez** (Debbie Fougerat's employee—recovering from surgery)
- **Herb Hahn** (health)
- **Eddie Hunt** (Debbie Jalufka's father—Alzheimer's)
- **Sandra Jetton** (health)
- **John Jobe** (Clay and Mary Mason's friend—health, stroke)
- **Debbie Jalufka** (Clay and Mary Mason's friend—health)
- **Edward Jungbauer** (Moerbes' friend—health)
- **Jimmy Linehan** (Chestly Gobar's grandfather—health)
- **Jason, Lizzie and Luke Klinger** (Sarah Weaver's cousins—Luke, 4 mos old, cancer)
- **Guy Lowe** (Clay Mason's friend—health)
- **Jay Mason and family**
- **Emory Meier** (Cheryl Pitts's father—health)
- **Orvan Muelker** (Kathy Winegeart's father—health)
- **Claudia Morris** (Perry Winegeart's sister—health)
- **David Pearson** (Eric Davis's friend—brain tumor)
- **Stacey Placker and Meagan Miller** (Lexi Miller's mother and sister)
- **Junior and Ada Powell** (Sharron Mason's brother-in-law and sister—health)
- **Sid Roberts** (Faireses' friend—health)
- **Alex and Tiffany Rodriguez** (Chestly Gobar's friends—Alex suffered stroke)
- **Brycen Rosales** (kindergartner in Shiner—recovering from brain surgery)
- **Ruth** (Joyce Faires's sister-in-law)
- **Jocelyn Seals** (Hallettsville—cancer)
- **David Taylor** (Cody Chrismon's uncle—cancer)
- **Maria Vasquez** (Joyce Faires's neighbor—health)
- **Buddy Watson** (Victoria Johnson's cousin—health)
- Family of **Michael Winegeart** (Perry's brother)

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, victoria@gonzaleschurchofchrist.org.

PRAYER UPDATES

Leon Giesecke, Jan Moerbe's father, went home on Thursday. They have decided not to treat the throat cancer, but will place him in hospice care for pain management. Jan's mother, **Jareene**, was treated for an allergic reaction to antibiotics last week.

Buddy Watson, Victoria Johnson's cousin, was scheduled to get his PIC line out on Tuesday. He had to have 7 weeks of IV antibiotic treatment and is still showing small spots of infection in his lungs. The doctors also found a small hole in his heart that does not require treatment at this time, but will be monitored.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW TEACHER ROTATION	SUNDAYS	WEDNESDAYS
BEGINNING THIS WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1	<i>2 years-2nd grade.....</i> Lauren Babb <i>3rd-6th grades.....</i> Susan Barnick <i>7th-12th grades.....</i> Debbie Fougerat <i>Adult.....</i> Clay Mason	<i>2 years-2nd grade.....</i> Shelley Hendershot <i>3rd-12th grades.....</i> Randy Moerbe <i>Adult.....</i> Clay Mason

5th Sunday Fellowship—CANCELLED

The 5th Sunday fellowship originally scheduled for today has been cancelled.

Watermelon on The Square

Beginning **this Friday, June 3**, we will again be serving FREE watermelon at Confederate Square in downtown Gonzales during the Main Street Summer Concert Series **every Friday evening in June**. The event runs **6-10 p.m.** If you are able, please arrive early to help with setup. Parking is also easier to find earlier in the evening. This week's concert features the Hot Attacks.

VBS: Team P.O.S.S.I.B.L.E.

Parents, if your children will attend this year's VBS, you may pre-register them now, either on our Website or by picking up a form in the foyer and returning it to Kevin or Victoria.

VBS Cookies

It's that time again! Everyone is asked to bring cookies for our VBS snacks. Please put them in the freezer in the annex.

Carbajal-Gobar Shower

You are invited to a potluck lunch and money tree shower honoring **Stephanie Carbajal and Chestly Gobar next Sunday, June 5** immediately following morning worship service. Anyone who is able is asked to bring a dish to share.

Summer Campfire Series

Beginning **next Sunday**, Grades 6-12 are invited to the Johnsons' house on select Sunday evenings throughout the summer for our summer campfire series—**June 5, July 17, July 24 and August 7**—from **6-8 p.m.** S'mores supplies will be provided. Please bring a sack supper, your Bible, and a lawn chair.

Come & Take It

It is time to start planning for this year's Come & Take It festival, which is Sept. 30-Oct. 2. We will again be preparing a parade float, and we also have the opportunity to run a food both in the non-profit tent. An informational and interest meeting regarding the food booth will be held **Sunday, June 12, immediately following morning service.**

Church T-Shirts

T-shirts are in! If you purchased shirts, please pick them up from Victoria. The cost came out to \$6.63 per shirt.

Volunteers Needed: Wednesday Night Meals

Volunteers are needed to prepare the entrée for meals on Wednesday evenings. **If you signed up to prepare a meal, please send your menu to Victoria by Wednesday the week before your turn.**

Volunteers Needed: Communion Prep

Volunteers are needed to help prepare communion in the coming months. Please sign up on the large bulletin board in the foyer.

Tuesday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast

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

Ladies Bible Class

Ladies Bible Class will meet this **Tuesday at 10 a.m.** at the building. We will continue our War Room Bible study.

Wednesday Evening Meal & Bible Study

Please join us **this Wednesday at 5:15 p.m.** for dinner in the annex. This week's entrée is lasagna. Anyone who is able is asked to bring sides to share.

Sunday Night Small Group

There is a small group that meets in the annex each Sunday evening from 6-7 p.m. The Lord's Supper is available.



MONDAY, MAY 30
 BASEBALL
 RED SOX V. GONZALES TWINS, 7 P.M. (SHINER FIELD 2)
 SOFTBALL
 MARINERS V. DEVIL RAYS, 7:45 P.M. (SHINER SB FIELD 3)

Caden Chrismon—Red Sox, Shiner Baseball
 Callie Chrismon—Mariners, Shiner Softball

YOUTH ZONE



WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1
 CHESS CLUB, 4 P.M.
 (MOULTON CITY PARK PAVILION)



Cooper Faires—Chess Club, Moulton