

Despite storms, the remnant survives

**“For out of Jerusalem will come a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. The zeal of the Lord Almighty will accomplish this.”
— 2 Kings 19:31**

When God wants his people to survive, it happens. It always has.

When I reflect on 40-plus years of walking with Jesus, I have great respect for the churches where I have served and for the people that God has put in my path. However, many today do not seem to feel the kind of joy I have experienced in my own walk with God. Many wring their hands and even panic about how Churches of Christ in the U.S. are not growing.

I will not speak of which “flavor” of Churches of Christ are better than others. I will not bring forward the saint, nor will I name the apostate as a “proof” of the church’s effectiveness or lack thereof.

I will, instead, point us to the notion that God wants his people to be successful in accomplishing his will.

And his remnant survives.

If the church is to grow, then it will not be because of practicing right doctrine or pursuing social justice. It will not be because we do or do not have women leaders. It will not be because we do or do not use musical instruments. Our scholarship will not qualify us. Nor will pursuing trends of popular church culture give us real success.

All of these things are, no doubt, worthy of our attention and conversation, but they are not concerns that ultimately will help the church to grow.

We will grow in real numbers only when those of us who represent God truly become conduits of his message of truth and life. We must project much more than the “niceness” of God. We must avoid making “the church” the central theme of our message. We must surround people in our world with those who not only love God but who also are willing to live out that love — outwardly, boldly.

I was brought to Christ by people who loved me and became conduits of Christ’s love. They cared enough to talk to me, to embrace me, to mentor me and to challenge me. I can’t remember anyone being mean, judgmental, abrasive or condescending. I can only remember that I was given great news in such a form that I wanted it for myself.

I owe my soul to Jesus and to those who cared for me with such love and concern.

We become woeful people when we dwell on our lack of numerical growth — when we focus on the storms of controversy we allow to surround us. Just at the water-walking Peter in Matthew 14, we begin to sink.

Honestly, is it so hard for us to see what the real problem is? We have taken our eyes off Christ.

WYANE ATKINSON — Christian Chronicle, April 2015
Atkinson has served in vocational ministry, working with teens, and served for 11 years as senior minister for the Northwest Church of Christ in Glendale, Ariz. He currently is outreach/connection minister for the Conroe Church of Christ in Texas.

PRAYER LIST

- Pauline Alvarez (health)
- Lauren Babb (health)
- Aaron Banks
- John Beiler (health)
- James Bohannon (Rex Boggs’s cousin—health)
- Jim Carpenter (Cody Chrismon’s great uncle—health)
- Dawn Clarke (Shirley Kuchynka’s daughter)
- Betty Cox (Brent Barnick’s sister—Texan nursing home)
- Dixie (Debbie Faires’s mother—Alzheimer’s)
- Jake Faires (Air Force, deployed to Jordan)
- Steven Faires, and Lexi
- Leon Giesecke (Jan Moerbe’s father—throat cancer)
- Herbert and Nelle Hahn (health)
- Debbie Jalufka
- Kevin and Victoria Johnson (healthy pregnancy/baby)
- Ada Powell (Sharron Mason’s sister—health)
- Jean Rice (Rex Boggs’s cousin—health)
- Family and friends of Doris Stevens
- Randall Sweeney (recovering from surgery)
- Adrienne Zingrich (Susan Barnick’s cousin—cancer)

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

James Bohannon, Rex Boggs’s cousin, is hospitalized at Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tenn. with an aortic infection.

Herb Hahn was scheduled to be released from The Heights on Thursday.

We extend sympathy to the family and friends of **Doris Stevens**, wife of the late Chesley Stevens, who passed away on Wednesday, April 5. Services were held Friday in Yoakum.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Family Field Day & Easter Egg Hunt

Please join us **TODAY** for Family Field Day & Easter Egg Hunt. We are having a potluck lunch in the annex immediately following morning worship. At the conclusion of lunch, the smaller children will hunt Easter eggs. Then, after the hunt, we will have family field day games.

Volunteers Needed: Wednesday Night Meals

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

Peach Valley Bar-B-Q Fundraiser

Peach Valley Christian Youth Camp is hosting its Annual Bar-B-Q Fundraiser on **Saturday, April 29**. A silent auction will follow. Please sign up in the foyer if you are able to prepare a dessert. Desserts need to be to the annex by 9:30 a.m. that morning. Please see Peggy or Pauline if you have items you can donate for the silent auction.

Baby Shower

You’re invited to a baby shower honoring **Kevin and Victoria Johnson** on **Sunday, April 30, from 2-4 p.m.** at the home of Stacia Sweeney. Kevin and Victoria are registered at Wal-Mart, Target, Babies ‘R’ Us, and Babylist.com.

Wednesday Evening Meal & Bible Study

Please join us at **5:15 p.m. this Wednesday** for dinner in the annex. This week’s entrée is **sandwiches**. Anyone who is able is asked to bring sides to share, but please do not let that prevent you from joining us. Classes for all ages follow at 6 p.m.

Volunteers Needed: Communion Prep

Volunteers are needed to prepare communion in the coming months. This task takes very little time and is a great service to the congregation. Please sign up on the large bulletin board in the foyer.

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.

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 Class

Ladies Class continues **this Tuesday at 11 a.m. at Jennie Chrismon’s house in Shiner**. We are continuing the series *Ruth: Loss, Love & Legacy* by Kelly Minter. For more information, please contact Jennie.

Mark Your Calendars

May 7—Senior Sunday

May 19—FCA End of Year Cookout

YOUTH ZONE

MONDAY, APRIL 10
LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL
ASTROS V. MARLINS, 6 P.M. (FIELD 5)
LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL
METS @ DODGERS, 7 P.M. (FIELD 1)

TUESDAY, APRIL 11
HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL
GONZALES V. NAVARRO, 7 P.M.
LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL
CUBS @ PHILLIES, 7 P.M. (FIELD 1)

Hunter Babb—Cubs (Shiner Baseball)
Madelyn Babb—Brewers (Shiner Tee Ball)
Caden Chrismon—Mets (Shiner Baseball)



THURSDAY, APRIL 13
TEE BALL
BREWERS V. INDIANS, 5:45 P.M. (FIELD 3)
LITTLE LEAGUE SOFTBALL
ASTROS @ MARLINS, 6 P.M. (FIELD 5)
HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL
GONZALES @ LA VERNIA, 7 P.M.
FRIDAY, APRIL 14
LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL
CUBS V. YANKEES, 7 P.M. (FIELD 2)

Callie Chrismon—Astros (Shiner Softball)
Morgan Mason—Gonzales HS Varsity Softball