

**Our Record**

Sunday Bible Study	
Morning Assembly	83
Contribution	\$2,581
Evening Assembly	—
Wednesday Class	

***In Search of the Lord's Way*** is shown on Charter Cable Channel 181 at 10:00 AM, Wednesday, and at 6:00 PM Sunday, and on Direct TV Channel 307 at 6:00 AM Sundays.

**Ministry Leaders:** Everett Hinton—Worship Ministry  
 Brad Bailey—Missions  
 Brett Sales —Youth  
 Bryan Jurrens—Buildings/Grounds  
 Gaylin Prior—Music/Treasurer  
 Dick Witt—Education/Benevolence

**Minister:** Russ Dudrey e-mail: r u s s d u d r e y @ g m a i l . c o m  
 phone: 402-834-0096 (home)

**Bulletin:** Sharon Hachtel—463-4997  
 e-mail: sh95736@windstream.net

Deadline for bulletin announcements is 9:00 PM Friday evening

**THOSE TO SERVE**

This Sunday, November 29      Next Sunday, December 6

	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	E Hinton	E Hinton	D Brennfrdr	D Brennfrdr
Song Leader	D Brennfrdr	B Bailey	D Witt	R Dudrey
Opening Prayer	R Grissom	D Wright	B Bailey	L Duester
Closing Prayer	C Fielder	M Fielder	R Grissom	M Fielder
Usher	B Jurrens		G Prior	
Greeters	Corman/Hayes		Baileys	
Preside Lord's Supper	D Witt		D Corman	
Serve	G Prior		L Peshek	
Serve	J Morgan		C Fielder	
Serve	L Duester		D Hachtel	
Coordinator	D Corman		E Hinton	
Prepare Lord's Supper	A Riley		L Prior	
Children's Church	J Corman/D Hayes		M Sales/J Wright	
Wee Worship	Monica Fielder		S Grissom/P Shearer	
Wed Children's Class	Lorinda Bailey		D Hayes	
Change Message Sign	Brad Bailey Family		Jim Fielder Family	
Lawn Care	---		---	

# Family Focus

**Number 48**

**November 29, 2015**

**Upcoming Events**

- Fifth Sunday Singing—November 29—Cancelled
- Potluck/Men's Business Meeting—December 13
- Christmas Caroling—December 16

- **Russ's Sermon** today is "Why Seek the Living With the Dead?" Luke's Account of the Resurrection of Jesus." The evening devotional will be Thanksgiving in Psalms and songs.
- **Any Member** interested in serving on the Missions Committee for a renewable 2-year term, should visit with one of the current members (Reed Munsell, Russ/Felice Dudrey, Brad/Lorinda Bailey, Scott Dinkler or Paula Witt). An introductory meeting is scheduled for Wednesday December 9 as an orientation for new members interested in being actively involved in the local, regional and international missions supported by the Hastings church of Christ.
- **Fifth Sunday Singing**—Because Thanksgiving fell in the same week as the fifth Sunday this year, the November fifth Sunday singing is cancelled.
- **Potluck/Men's Business Meeting** December 13th. Committee members are the Nauert's and Corman's. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the Mountain State's Children's Home.
- **Christmas Caroling**—Please plan to bring fruit and snack items for the food baskets, along with your voice and your smile for Christmas caroling Wednesday December 16th.

**The Lord's Baseball Game**

The Lord and Bob were watching a baseball game in which the Lord's team was playing Satan's team. The Lord's team was at bat, the score was tied zero to zero, and it was the bottom of the ninth inning with two outs.

Love stepped up to the plate. He swung at the first pitch and hit a single, because Love never fails.

The next batter was Faith, and he also got a single because Faith works with Love.

Godly Wisdom was the next batter. Satan wound up and threw the first pitch. Godly Wisdom looked it over and let it pass. Ball one. Three more pitches, and Godly Wisdom walked because Godly Wisdom never swings at what Satan throws.

The bases were now loaded. The Lord turned to Bob and told him He was going to bring in His star player. Up to the plate stepped Grace. Bob said, "He sure doesn't look like much!"

Satan's whole team relaxed when they saw Grace. Thinking he had won the game, Satan fired his first pitch. To the shock of everyone, Grace hit the ball harder than anyone. But Satan was not worried. His center fielder let very few get by. He went up for the ball, but it went right through his glove, hit him on the head, and sent him crashing to the ground. Grace scored a home run.

*(con't on page 2)*

**Enrichment Opportunities**

Sunday Bible Study	9:30
College Class	9:30
Sunday Assembly	10:30
Sunday Evening	6:00
Wednesday Class	7:00
Ladies Class Thursday	9:30

**Our Church Sign—**

- Don't Limit Your Challenges—Challenge Your Limits.
- How Do Children Spell Love - T—I—M—E.

**REMEMBER IN PRAYER:** Our Country; Our Veterans; Eldership Selection, Elementary, High School, & College Students; Erica Adams' Grandmother, Linda—heart problems; Andy Adams—health; Andy Adams's Brother; Andy Adams's co-worker's husband, Randy, health; Bohne Family—personal issues; Evelyn Brown—stent surgery; Gary Brennfoerder Family—Gary's passing; Debbie Brennfoerder's Mother, Joan Kimminau—compound fractured vertebra; Daniel Enfield; Donnis Genung—cancer treatment; Glassmyer Family, Katrina—hip surgery recovery, Jackson—school; Rob—job safety & travel; Robert & Susan Grissom's Son, Joel Grissom—health & family issues; Cassidy Jurrens—health; Ken Lockling—health; Judy Melvin—health, her brother's wife's—health, brother Jim—stroke; Georgette Ockinga—passing of her Aunt Doris; Seth Ostrander—brain tumor; Shirley Steen's grandson—Adam; Sudanese Brethren—persecution; Maggie Sales's brother, Gavin Wallace—health; David Uden—triple by-pass surgery recovery; Mark Steen—health; Gary & Norma Werner—Norma's health; Dick Wright—knee replacement surgery recovery; Jo Wright's niece, Debra, frozen shoulder; Jo Wright's friend, Jackie Davis diagnosed with cancer; Jo Wright—rotator cuff surgery; those travelling.

**PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONARIES:** Russel Bell: mission work in India & Romania.

**Happy November Birthday:** Angie Riley - 4 Piper Roth - 10 Dustin Corman - 15  
Bob Shearer - 15 Katrina Glassmyer - 17 Don Hachtel - 17 Karla Nauert - 20  
Georgette Ockinga - 26

**Happy November Anniversary To:** Don & Sharon Hachtel - 29

**Happy December Birthday:** Jeremy Voorhees - 1 Eloise Lockling - 2  
Elizabeth Montemayor - 4 Brooke Bailey - 5 Benjamin Bohne - 8 David Moore - 17  
Brittany Bailey - 17 Jamie Russo - 20 Lorinda Bailey - 28 Marina Fielder - 31

**Happy December Anniversary:** William & Alice Wells - 1 Dick & Paula Witt - 16  
Andy & Erica Adams - 22 Rob & Katrina Glassmyer - 28  
Ken & Eloise Lockling - 29

The Lord's team won. The Lord then asked Bob if he knew why Love, Faith, and Godly Wisdom could get on base but could not win the game. Bob said he did not know why. The Lord explained, "If your love, faith, and wisdom had won the game, you would think you had done it by yourself. Love, Faith, and Wisdom will get you on base, but only My Grace can get you Home.

Author Unknown

From the bulletin of the Morro Bay, California Church of Christ.

\_\_\_\_\_ via *BulletinGold*

You are today where your thoughts have brought you; you will be tomorrow where your thoughts take you."  
— James Allen

- via the *Nile Street Notes*, the weekly bulletin of the Anna Church of Christ in Anna, IL; R. W. McAlister preaches for the congregation and may be contacted through the congregation's website: <http://www.annachurchofchrist.com/>

## “BUT THEY DID NOT UNDERSTAND THIS SAYING”

*“While everyone was marveling at all that Jesus did, he said to his disciples, ‘Listen carefully to what I am about to tell you: The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men.’ But they did not understand this saying. It was hidden from them so that they did not grasp it, and they were afraid to ask him about it”* (Lk 9:43ff).

One of the surprises in the Gospels is the portrait they draw of the blindness, hard-heartedness, and incomprehension of the Twelve. All the Gospels agree: the Twelve did follow Jesus in great love and loyalty, and at great personal cost, but they did not understand him well at all until after his death and resurrection. They had a different agenda for the Messiah and the Messianic kingdom than Jesus did.

Consider the warts-and-all portrait of the Twelve. Peter confesses Jesus as the Messiah; Jesus accepts the word “You are the Messiah,” but explains his Messiahship means he must suffer, be rejected and killed and on the third day be raised. Peter upbraids him: “No, Lord, this can never happen to you!” Jesus flashes back to Satan tempting him in the wilderness: “Get behind me, Satan! For you are thinking as men think, not as God thinks!” (Mk 8:27-33). Peter's agenda for the glorious Son of David runs counter to Jesus' mission to be the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53.

James and John catch Jesus alone and ask him for thrones, one on his right hand and one on his left, when he comes into his kingdom. Jesus tells them they don't know what they're asking. He will not give them authoritarian rulership on earth; he himself did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give himself as the Ransom for many of Isaiah 53 (Mk 10:35-45).

After the resurrection, both with the two disciples on the way to Emmaus and with the Ten gathered in the Upper Room, Jesus explains to them how the Messiah should be seen in the Old Testament: *“How foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory? . . . This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things”* (Lk 24:25f,46ff). They had a different agenda for the Messiah; Jesus had to transform their understanding.

How do you explain the unfavorable portrait the Gospel writers draw of the Twelve? You and I would have drawn it differently if we had been the writers and were making up the story. We would have made them into heroes; we would not have portrayed them warts and all, baldly, as failures in following Jesus. Yet the Gospels do exactly that. This part of the story cannot be made up: It has to be the way the Twelve actually were, the way they actually thought about the Messiah before the crucifixion and resurrection transformed their thinking. I'm convinced that their portrait tells the real historical truth, for two reasons: 1) It does not fit with the Christian bias of Gospel writers inventing it to advance their agenda. 2) It does fit with everything we know about Jewish revolutionary messianism in the time of Jesus.

The strongest historical reason I know to believe that the resurrection of Jesus really happened is the transformation of the Twelve. Before the death of Jesus they are hot-blooded Jewish revolutionaries; shortly afterwards they become the witnesses of Jesus' resurrection and preach a transformed view of both the Messiah and the Messianic kingdom. How can we account for the transformation of their thinking, except by the reality of the resurrection?

The strongest emotional reason I know to believe that the resurrection really happened is the human problem of death. How else can we address death? God's answer to death is, first, to go through it with us, and thus, second, to break its power through the resurrection. *“Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive”* (I Cor 15:21f). That was God's Messianic agenda: to address the problems of sin, suffering, and death by taking them upon himself in Christ.

— ©Russ Dudrey, 11/29/15