

New Prayer Concerns:

Rusty Hatton, Ruth Hatton's brother-in-law, was sent back to Tallahassee.

Lester Gatlin required further surgery to repair a break that was discovered in his leg.

C.E. Comerford will be undergoing more tests.

Others in our Prayers:

Bill West, Louise Williams, Karen Travis, Jesse Brown, Wayne Bonner, Dale Newberry

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Lester & Dora Gatlin, Royce & Nada Whittington, the Hall family, Missy Williams, Sherry West, Robby Dittmann, Pearson Martin, Frank Faircloth, Hilda Barnett

Prayer List Updates:

If you have prayer list items that need to be added or deleted, please make sure to let one of the Elders know! Names will be removed from the prayer list after 3 weeks if there is no update.

Upcoming Celebrations:

March

31st - Erin Mahler's Birthday

April

3rd - Buster Joiner's Birthday

12th - Chris Hill's Birthday

13th - Chris Hill Jr.'s Birthday

19th - Mary Joiner's Birthday

22nd - Charlie Hall's Birthday

23rd - Kimberly Day's Birthday

Upcoming Events:

April 1 - Wednesday Fellowship

April 10-12 - Leaders & Leaderettes

April 19 - Sunday Fellowship

April 19-22 - Gospel Meeting at Hentown Church of Christ - Blakely

Contribution:

3/22 - \$768.00

Contacts:

Elder Royce Whittington 246-3924
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Elder Lester Gatlin 850-627-6598
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Welcome to the Bainbridge Church of Christ

1001 Culbreth Street
Bainbridge, Ga. 39819

March 29th, 2009



Elders

Lester Gatlin
Royce Whittington

Deacons

Mitchell Comerford
Don Rabon
Chad Waddell

Minister

Tim Mahler

Services:

Sunday: 10:00am Bible Study 11:00am Worship
6:00pm Worship/Youth Program
Wednesday: 6:30pm Bible Study

Who Do We Blame When the Church Isn't Growing?

From the time we are little, we find it easier to make excuses than to examine an issue and find out where the fault truly lies. We prefer to point fingers and assign blame rather than search for what we can do to solve the problem. Unfortunately, this is often just as true with adult spiritual matters as it was with the broken windows and lost toys of our youth.

But this is not what God calls us to do. God calls us to be honest; to be studious; to search His word and to search our hearts. So who do we blame when the church isn't growing? Well, the truth of the matter is that we tend to blame everyone but ourselves. So perhaps the question is better asked... who **should** we blame?

If we're going to examine the situation intelligently, we must acknowledge that there are several places the blame may fall. So let's look at our roles in the church and see if we are doing our jobs.

Preachers and Teachers – The role of preachers and teachers is to instruct others in the Gospel. Their job is to present the true word of God in an inviting, inspiring way. They should help lead the unsaved to the water and encourage the saved to desire a closer walk with the Lord. *If you're a preacher or teacher and you are teaching false doctrine or instructing in a manner that promotes lukewarm Christianity, then you may be part of the problem.*
(Titus 2:1-15)

Deacons – The role of the Deacons is to manage the physical ministries of the church. They are the administrators and organizers. They are to respond to the physical needs of the members and see that the resources of the congregation are used efficiently. *If you're a Deacon and members of the congregation are making needs known that you are not addressing or if you are mismanaging the resources of the congregation, then you may be part of the problem.*
(Acts 6:1-4)

Elders – The role of the Elders is to be spiritual shepherds. They are responsible for keeping the sheep in the flock. They are to pray for us and with us. They are to comfort us when we are weak and encourage us to seek a deeper relationship with God. *If you are an Elder and Christians are walking away from their salvation because of your spiritual neglect, then you may be part of the problem.*
(1 Pet 5:1-4, Acts 20:28)

Members – The role of the members of Christ's church is to preach the Gospel in every word and deed. They are to bring the message into the whole world, teaching and baptizing. They are to set a daily example of the love of Jesus and the joy that he brings to his followers. They are to be his body on earth and his messengers to the world. *If you are a member of the church and are not inspiring the world to choose to live for Christ, then you may be part of the problem.*
(1 Pet 3:15, James 3:13)

So who is to blame when the church doesn't grow? The answer may vary from one congregation to another, and the blame may lie in more than one place. I guess the real question is... are we examining ourselves first and trying to be part of the solution? Or are we just trying to assign blame?

Raintree Village Children's Home Items

Today, please bring **disinfectant spray**.

Next Sunday, please bring **paper cups**.

Sodium and Chlorine

Sodium is an extremely active element found naturally only in combined form; it always links itself to another element. Chlorine, on the other hand, is the poisonous gas that gives chlorine bleach its offensive odor.

When sodium and chlorine are combined, the result is sodium chloride, common table salt, a substance to preserve meat and bring out its flavor.

Love and truth can be like sodium and chlorine. Love without truth is flighty, sometimes blind, willing to combine with various doctrines. On the other hand, truth by itself can be offensive. Spoken without love, it can turn people away from the gospel.

When faith and love are combined in an individual or a church, then we have what Jesus called "*the salt of the earth*" (Matthew 5:13) and we're able to preserve and bring out the beauty of our faith (Ephesians 4:15).

"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man" (Colossians 4:6)

10 Commandments of Parenting

1. You shall teach your children respect for their fellow man.
2. You shall teach them good sportsmanship at work and play.
3. You shall instill in them an appreciation of Christianity and family.
4. You shall strive for mutual understanding.
5. You shall impart to them a desire to love and honor their country.
6. You shall encourage them to apply themselves to difficult tasks.
7. You shall teach them the importance of participation in community affairs and local government.
8. You shall teach them self-reliance and help them develop an independent spirit.
9. You shall help them develop a sense of responsibility in planning for the future, both spiritual and physical.
10. You shall, above all, prepare them for the duties and responsibilities of membership in the Lord's church.