



Prayer Requests:

"Pray for one another"

- James 5:16 -

- Robbie Andrews (gospel preacher, Lineville, AL) - spine/nerve compression/left arm issues
- Josiah Carelse & Family - working with the Lord's church in Cape Town, South Africa
- Tish Clarke (wife of BJ Clarke, director of the Memphis School of Preaching) - has malignant brain tumor & cancerous lymph node
- Corona Pandemic - its effect & overall impact on our lives, the nation and the world
- Diane Cote - suffering with a prolonged and severe virus; other health concerns also
- Randy Cote (Diane's son) - alcohol addiction
- Filomena Derecho (Cathy's mother in the Philippines) - numerous health issues
- Reyderick Derecho - permanently disabled
- Chuck Gloman - recovering from A-fib surgery
- Brandon Kennedy - recovering from mononucleosis; feeling better and now back in school
- Bob Kenneth (friend of Terry & Betty) - having difficulty recovering from walking pneumonia
- Alan Nichols - grieving the death of his father
- George Nick & Family - Wife & daughter in IL suffering from long-range Covid; George (also in IL) now suffering with a sepsis infection
- Norman Roy - ongoing health concerns
- Wayne Sampson - ongoing anxiety attacks
- Betty Schmidt - fell at work and broke her left arm; healing & doing well w/ physical therapy
- Please pray that we might find a suitable and affordable permanent meeting place
- Please pray for our nation (1 Timothy 2:1-3)
- Please pray for those not with us today — the sick & suffering and those who are spiritually weak & struggling

*"The prayer of the upright is His delight . . .
He hears the prayer of the righteous."*

~ Proverbs 15:8, 29 ~

The Spiritual Seed



The *natural* seed has within it the power of life, as well as the potential of growth and propagation. The *spiritual* seed—the word of God (Lk 8:11), is much the same. Jesus said, *"The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life"* (Jn 6:63). Indeed, the word of God is *"alive and powerful"* (Heb 4:12), and will accomplish God's intended purpose in bringing forth fruit (Rom 10:17). *"For as the rain comes down...[to] water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it"* (Is 55:10-11).

In the Parable of the Sower, Jesus tells the story of a sower (farmer) sowing seed (Lk 8:4-15). The seed falls on four different types of soil which represent the hearts of men and women. The first soil *"by the wayside"* is unreceptive to the word. The next two, *"on rock"* and *"among thorns,"* receive the word but, due to various reasons, bring no lasting fruit to maturity. The fourth soil, *"good ground,"* hears the word, obeys it, and yields an enduring and bountiful crop through much patience and perseverance. It is this soil with which you and I want to identify. And it is this soil that we are most interested in when it comes to sowing the seed of the kingdom (Mk 16:15-16; Acts 8:4; 2 Tim 2:25; 3:16-17; 4:2).

Jesus explains that the good ground represents those having *"an honest (noble) and good heart"* (v. 15). When those who are good soil *"receive with meekness the implanted word"* it is able to save their souls (Jas 1:21). *"Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"* (Rom 10:17). The spiritual, incorruptible seed—the word of God which lives and abides forever—planted in honest and good hearts, purifies the soul and brings about a new birth (1 Pet 1:22-25).

Of course, the seed will not be able to take root unless it is first sown (planted) in human hearts. This is where you and I come in. First century

Christians, especially during times of persecution and hardship, *"went everywhere preaching the word"* (Acts 8:4). They planted lots of seeds, preaching/teaching Christ wherever they went, and reaped a great harvest of souls (Acts 2:41; 4:4; 6:7; 12:24; 13:44, 48-49; 15:35-36; 17:11; 18:11; 19:10, 20). We cannot hope to improve on this simple God-approved method today. Jesus said, *"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest"* (Lk 10:2). Will you be one of the few laborers willing to be sent into God's harvest? — **Terry Schmidt** ✍



"Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

- Acts 16:30 -

Hear the Gospel - John 6:44-45; Rom 10:14,17

Believe [trust in] God - John 3:16; 8:24; Ac 16:31
Heb 11:6

Repent of sins - Luke 13:1-5; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30

Confess Christ - Mt 10:32-33; Ac 8:36-37;
Rom 10:8-10

Be baptized - Mk 16:16; Ac 2:38; 8:36; 22:16;
1 Pet 3:21

Be faithful unto death - Mt 7:21; Rev 2:10

"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

- Acts 4:12 -

☺ **Welcome Visitors** ☺

We are glad you have come to worship with us today. We want you to know that you are welcome. Please don't hesitate to ask if you have questions or if we can help you in any way. Also, please fill out one of our visitor's cards before you depart.

Have a great week! ☺





Our Deepest Sympathy

Our sincerest condolences are extended to **Alan Nichols** and family as they mourn the death of their loved one, Alan Nichols Sr., who passed away on Monday, January 30th. May God's steadfast presence and tender compassion provide strength & comfort to Alan and his family during this difficult time of grief and loss. ☩



We will enjoy our potluck meal today after services. We hope you will stay for this special time of food, fun and fellowship! ☺

Visits to Our Web Page

Last Week: 10,611
This Month: 15,303



SNACKS!

Feb 12: Paula
Feb 19: Pat

Attendance & Contribution

for February 5, 2023

Attendance — 13
Contribution — \$585

Order of Worship

February 12, 2023

"Give unto the LORD the glory due unto His name; worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness."

📖 - Psalm 29:2 - 📖

Song—13

Opening Prayer

Song—346

Scripture Reading

- Luke 8:4-8 -

Song—179

The Lord's Supper

Song—572

Sermon:

"The Parable of the Sower"

Song—643

Announcements & Closing Prayer

Southern Maine Church of Christ

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*We love Him, because
He first loved us.
- 1 John 4:19 -*

February 12, 2023

Meeting on the Lord's Day:

9:30 am — Bible Class
10:30 am — Worship

*"Let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."
- Hebrews 10:24-25 -*

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