



Welcome To The Killeen Church of Christ!

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."-Ecclesiastes 12:13



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SHEPHERDS

*Lee Fisher
Zachary Petties*

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PREACHER

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TREASURER

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MONTHLY SUPPORT:

*Cherokee Home
For Children
Cherokee, TX*

*Christian Homes &
Family Services
Abilene, TX*

*Foster's Home
For Children
Stephenville, TX*

*Sunny Glen
Children's Home
San Benito, TX*

SERVICE SCHEDULE

SUNDAY BIBLE CLASS_ 9:30 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP_ 10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY_ 7:00 PM

Do You Have Hunger Pangs?

By Phil McIntosh

Have you ever felt that rumble begin to form and hope that nobody hears what you are sure your stomach is about to say? Maybe you skipped breakfast and opted for a coffee instead. Perhaps you were just so busy that you didn't think about eating that day. Regardless of why, your stomach has likely fussed at you for not providing it with any sustenance. Most of us have experienced some form of hunger pangs (or "pains") before. What are they? What causes them? According to Healthline, hunger pangs are:

"...caused by strong contractions of the stomach when it's empty. This uncomfortable sensation is often accompanied by hunger, or the desire to eat. Despite being called "hunger" pangs, these pains don't always indicate a true need to eat. They may be caused by an empty stomach and a need or hunger to eat, or they may be caused by your body being in a routine of eating certain amounts of food or eating at specific times of day."

Long story short, when you don't fill your stomach regularly it gets grouchy. And when your stomach is grouchy, you're grouchy. The Snickers commercials come to mind where there are a group of people around and some wild animal is doing something crazy. Someone hands them a Snickers bar and they return to their normal form because, as the commercial goes, they weren't themselves when they were hungry. We even see such elements of human nature represented in the Bible where people are instructed to rest for a while and eat or to take nourishment (**Mk. 6:31; Acts 27:34**).

As I'm sure you have gathered, this article is not particularly interested in how often we've skipped a meal or whether or not we've weathered the embarrassment of a distressed stomach speaking in whale sounds. We are interested (or should be) with hunger though. The world around us is starving physically and spiritually. Surely you've seen the commercials of children in Africa who are so emaciated or have such distended stomachs they almost cause us to break out into tears. The statistics tell us that nearly 700 million people go to bed undernourished. While that figure is astounding, it pales in comparison to the number of people who go to bed with starving souls; that particular number is frighteningly higher (**Matt. 7:13-14**).

You might be reading this article and thinking about those who don't know God and have not obeyed the gospel, who would be eternally separated from God if their life were to end right now (**2 Thess. 1:7-9**). What about you, though? Are you hungry? I beg you to bear with me for a moment and realize that your response, in the proper context, should be a resounding, "YES!" This 'yes' is not so much an acknowledgement that we have more to learn, but rather an application of one of the proverbs Jesus preached in His 'Sermon on the Mount' (**Matt. 5:3-10**). The Lord said:

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled."—Matthew 5:6

And God has revealed to us that the man is blessed who spends his days invested in the word of God, when he could be otherwise occupied:

"Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night."—Psalm 1:1-2

Hungering and thirsting after righteousness means that the holiness of the Almighty and the righteousness which is found in His kingdom are not mere trinkets with which you adorn your life. To **hunger and thirst** is to **crave** the righteousness of God; it is to fill your heart with no greater purpose than to know the will of the Lord and obey it all of your days. This is the person who willingly and unashamedly gives God their heart, soul, mind, strength, purpose, and future (**Deut. 6:5**). This person stares with wide open eyes at the word of God, inviting into their minds anything that can purify them further, draw them closer to God, and set them further apart from the chaos and discontentment found in the materialistic things of the world (**2 Tim. 2:22**). Are you hungry? Jesus has all the food you could desire (**John 6:35**).

IT'S A NEW DAY

Have you made your new year's resolutions? Chances are, they are about losing weight, having better Bible reading habits, praying more often, being more patient, or attending worship more often. Your resolutions may have nothing to do with any of those I have mentioned, but at least one of them may be in your list.

Why do we make resolutions on New Year's Day? For some, it is because that is what everyone else does. For others, it is an opportunity to start over. The beginning of a new year seems to be the time when people feel the past can be forgotten, and they can begin again.

There is nothing wrong with making an effort to improve a person's diet, stop a bad habit, or change other such things; but we don't have to wait until January 1 to do it. It can begin on any given day throughout the year.

The book of Lamentations, probably written by the prophet Jeremiah, is a sad commentary on the destruction of Jerusalem. Though the destruction of this great city had been foretold, it still seemed to come as a surprise. Though Jeremiah warned the people this tragic event was coming, they chose to ignore him and continued in sin.

Even in the lamenting, Jeremiah gives hope. He said, *"But this I call to mind, and therefore I have: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. 'The LORD is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in him'. The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him"* (*Lamentations 3:21-25 ESV*).

Each day is a new beginning for each of us. No one has to wait until the beginning of a new year to start over.

The trick is to see each day as a new beginning. We sometimes dwell so much on the past that we can't forgive ourselves much less ask God to forgive us.

John wrote, *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleans us from all unrighteousness"* (*First John 1:9*).

John reminded these Christians that everyone sins; and if we say we have no sin we are liars (verse 8). Then he provides hope of forgiveness. What a wonderful blessing that is for the Christian.

Notice, however, that we must confess our sins in order to be forgiven. One can't expect God to forgive us when we do not acknowledge our faults, repent, and put Him first.

I've always loved this poem. I think it expresses what we all feel from time to time.

THE LAND OF BEGINNING AGAIN

By Lolita Hiroshi

I wish that there were some wonderful place
Called the Land of Beginning Again,
Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches
Could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door.
And never be on again.

I wish we could come on it all unaware,
Like the hunter who finds a lost rail;
And I wish that the one whom our blindness had done
The greatest injustice of all
Could be at the gates like an old friend that waits
For the comrade he's gladdest to hail.

We would find all the things we intended to do
But forgot, and remembered too late.
Little praises unspoken, little promises broken,
And all of the thousand and one
Little duties neglected that might have perfected
The day for one less fortunate.

It wouldn't be possible not to be kind
In the Land of Beginning Again;
And the ones we misjudged and the ones
Whom we grudged
Their moments of victory here
Would find in the grasp of our loving handclasp
More than penitent lips could explain.

For what had been hardest we'd know had been best,
And what had seemed loss would be gain;
For there isn't a sting that will not take wing
When we've faced it and laughed it away.
And I think that the laughter is most what we're after
In the Land of Beginning Again.

So I wish that there were some wonderful place
Called the Land of Beginning Again,
Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches
And all of our poor selfish grief
Could be dropped like a shabby old coat at the door,
And never be put on again.

What I love more is that passage from Lamentations. God's mercies are new every morning, so we do live in a land of beginning again.

Sandra Oliver

Oliver, Sandra. "It's a New Day." *Christian Woman Daily Devotional*, 10 Jan. 2020, <https://www.abiblecommentary.com/christianwoman/its-a-new-day/>.

JANUARY CLEANING CALENDAR

- May be done any time before the next Sunday.
- Please consult with your team leader for further questions. **THANK YOU!**

Jan 2- TEAM JAMES S.

James
Kim-Marie
Xavier
Jaden

9- TEAM PHIL

Michelle
Beverly
Donna
Josephine
Yvonne

16- TEAM LEE

Lee
Natalie
Rufus
Derek

23- TEAM ZACK

Zack
Amanda
Diedre
Paul
Rubye

30-TEAM ROGER

Patrick
Brenda
Roger
Linda

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

PLEASE KEEP THESE MEMBERS AND LOVED ONES IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Gaylen Williams' sister, Dana, has covid.
-James Seay is recovering from neck surgery last Wednesday.
-Natasha Arch is currently in the ICU at Advent Hospital due to seizures.
-Alex Medlin, the young son of a family who visited with us recently, has three viruses and trouble with seizures.
-Gary Foster had his coronary angiography last Monday and received a good report that no stent is needed.

CONTINUED PRAYERS FOR OUR SICK & HOMEBOUND:

Millie Simcox's friend (Floydada Barnett), James Garner, his wife, & family, Linda Deem's brother & his son, Alfreda Pettaway, Tanja, Tiffany, & Natasha Arch, Josephine Spear's sister (Rose), Angela Thomas, Julia Jones' cousin (Larry Sanford), Amanda Petties' brother (Anthony Allen) & sister (Jewel), Rufus Brown, Ashlyn Almeida, Donna Hines' niece (April), Marcella Williams' brother-in-law (Johnnie Milford), Michelle McIntosh's cousin's daughter (Haley), Shirl Foster, Martha Bell's sister, Julie Odum and her mother (Sharon Schmidt), Ken Sellers, Brenda Seller's mother, Garnie & Nada Miller, Lois Brown, Cheryl Flores' brother-in-law (Raymond Flores), Tim Matter & his aunt (Vivian), Charles Culver, Jean Basco, Billye Hughes, Jim Dukes, Mary McAnally's son, & sister (Ann Ahrens), Barbara Robinson & her daughter & son-in-law (Skip & Laura Skarpa), Esther Cox, Gladys Driver, Willard Dunn, Archie & Jessie Turner, and Linda Walts. Please keep these members and loved ones in your prayers as they battle health problems.

NEW YEAR'S EVE FELLOWSHIP: Join us on Friday, December 31st, in the Fellowship Hall as we celebrate the beginning of the new year from 6-10 pm. Bring your favorite snacks or finger foods and board games!

SAVE THE DATES STARTING IN JANUARY 2022: Starting on January 2, we will resume our Fellowship Luncheons each first Sunday, following the morning service, in the fellowship hall. Please bring casseroles, meat dishes, vegetables, and desserts. For January 2nd, KITCHEN GROUP #1 will have kitchen duties (Brenda Sellers, Martha Bell, Lois Brown, Amanda Petties, & Victoria Polanco).

-Starting January 9th, then monthly, each second Sunday, at 5:00 pm, there will be a Youth Devotional. If anyone would like to host a devotional at their home, please see one of the elders, or Phil McIntosh. Otherwise it will be in the fellowship hall.

-There will be a P.E.P. (Personal Evangelism & Pizza) Night on January 16th, at 6:00 pm, in the fellowship hall to discuss and encourage each other in building up our personal evangelism efforts. Then each month following, we will meet every third Friday at 6:00 pm. For any questions, please see Phil McIntosh.

-Starting January 26th, then every fourth Wednesday of each month, there will be a singing class and practice before the regular Wednesday night devotional at 6:00 pm.

December Office Closings

On December 31st, the office will be closed for the New Year holiday.
On behalf of the elders, deacons, and minister, we wish you and yours a safe and happy New Year! God bless!

Our Speaker Today Is Boyce Edwards.

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We want to especially welcome our visitors!

*If you are visiting, please fill out an attendance card from the back of the pew directly in front of you and leave it in the pew as you leave.
Thank you for your visit and please join us again!*

BIBLE STUDIES AND COUNSELING OFFERED

- ⇒ Bible Studies With Our Preacher Or Elders
- ⇒ Free Bible Correspondence
- ⇒ Free Marriage And Family Counseling

To our visitors—Thanks for being with us today, and please come again!

☞ DECEMBER CALENDAR ☞

- 29-Singing Night
- 31-The office will be closed for the New Year holiday.**
- 31-New Year's Eve fellowship from 6-10 pm in fellowship hall.

☞ JANUARY CALENDAR ☞

- 2-Fellowship Luncheon: Kitchen Group #1 will have kitchen duty.
- 5-Singing Night
- 9-Youth Devotional at 5:00 pm.
- 5,12,19,26-Ladies Bible class at 10:00 am in the fellowship hall.
- 8-Men's breakfast at 8:30 am in the fellowship hall.
- 15-Ladies breakfast & workday at 9:30 am in the fellowship hall.
- 16-P.E.P. (Personal Evangelism & Pizza) Night in the fellowship hall, at 6:00 pm.
- 17-The office will be closed for the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.**
- 26-Singing class & practice at 6:00 pm.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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