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It's not April 15th, and there are no elections on the immediate horizon, so why did I preach about God and Country last Sunday morning?

Obviously the answer is that in our study of Romans, we came to the 13th chapter. It's there that Paul speaks of God's role in the establishment of civil governments and of our responsibilities to those in authority over us. But what Paul had to say was in response to questions that the believers in Rome were struggling with at the time. So shouldn't we wait until we are struggling with similar questions before looking at Paul's instruction on the matter?

True, it would seem more relevant if I preached on this when we were all thinking about taxes and elections. But then again, shouldn't we know what God expects of us long before we are faced with an immediate decision? It certainly wouldn't be wise to wait until we were in the heat of an argument to find out what God has to say about murder, or in the heat of passion to consider what He has to say about adultery. It's vital that we know what God has to say long before we're called upon to make a decision.

I had written the above on Monday, before leaving for a dental appointment after breaking a tooth on Sunday. The break was welcomed, in writing the article of course, not the tooth, because I wasn't sure how I was going to finish it. I was, however, giving thought to how our Sunday School program prepares children for life by grounding them in God's Word. Then this morning I read the following in *The Daily Message*. It's from the 119th Psalm, and finishes my article perfectly.

"How can a young person live a clean life? By carefully reading the map of your Word.

I delight far more in what you tell me about living than in gathering a pile of riches.

I ponder every morsel of wisdom from you, I attentively watch how you've done it.

I relish everything you've told me of life, I won't forget a word of it."

God Bless, Rick



## THE CHATHAM MESSENGER

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### Haitian Christian Ministries

One of the main goals of Haitian Christian Ministries is to continue to spread the Good News of Jesus throughout Northern Haiti. In recent years, we have found several areas and several willing servants to step out into these unreached areas. Some have now turned into full, sponsored churches for HCM. These areas continue to experience great growth as more and more come to know and accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. We have recently begun to partner with two additional "church plants" and wanted to provide some details about these locations.

Breada is located in Plain du Nord, not far from the dirty voodoo pool. This church started in May 2019 with Walter, one of our Emmaus students who attends church at Lory. Walter is a third-year theology student at Emmaus Biblical Seminary which is just down the road from Pillatre and a great partner in ministry. This plant church is surrounded by many voodoo temples, but many people have submitted their lives to Christ at his arrival. This church plant already has 40 members. They have Sunday service, Bible study and an Evangelism program that goes door to door every week. This church does not have any support from HCM yet, but we do have our eyes on it.

The other church plant is Longes. Pastor Jacquesene is a young single man who graduated from Emmaus Biblical Seminary that God has inspired to meet with Pastor Phida to go to Longes

(a remote area) to reach out this community. This community has a lot of needs and people there don't really know about Jesus. Now this church plant has a Sunday service and Bible study and a tent with Palm leaves.

Please pray for these churches. Pray for their pastors, their new members, and those in the

communities around them. While these churches are not officially HCM sponsored right now, please pray for wisdom for the Haitian and US based boards as we consider adding more churches. These churches need Bibles, hymnals, a bigger tent, a small sound system, and most importantly your prayers.



**CHATHAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
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Chatham, Illinois 62629

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Rick Werneborg, Minister  
cell phone 836-4971  
Rick@chathamchristian.org

Mark Huber, Youth Minister  
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**Sunday Worship Service** 9:15 AM  
**Bible School** 10:45 AM

## STATISTICS

Worship ..... 125  
Offering ..... \$5,006.22

## SERVING THIS SUNDAY-9/1/19

Greeters ..... Beryl & Jamella Reese  
Visitors' Stand ..... Chuck & Jan McLaughlin  
Communion Meditation ..... Chris Luzio  
Otto Huber  
Ushers ..... Duane Carrell  
Chad Formea  
Paul Hunley  
Bob Williamson  
Kirk Polley  
Gary Gredzieleski

### WORSHIP NURSERY

Toddlers ..... Julie & Lily Divjak  
Infants ..... Janet Polley  
Jamella Reese  
Abbie Divjak  
Sunday School  
Toddlers ..... Rhonda Luzio  
Infants ..... Jonathan & Jeni Sperry

## The Hidden Word

JONAH 2:1-2a

"Then Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the stomach of the fish, and he said, 'I called out of my distress to the Lord, and He answered me'."



--Alex Pence and family at the passing of his father.

## FELLOWSHIP DIRECTORY

We'll be publishing a new fellowship directory in September, so any desired changes should be given to Rick or Marilyn within the next couple of weeks.

## The Hand of God

Finding His Care in all Circumstances

Alistair Begg

Opinions were given, and the decision has been made. This year's Sunday night study for adults will begin with a look at the life of Joseph.

The book we'll be reading, *The Hand of God* by Alistair Begg, focuses on the way God prepared Joseph for what lay ahead, and then guided him through some very trying circumstances.

If you've ever wondered where God is in the midst of the struggles of life, and why things are happening to you the way they are, this study may not give you all the answers you seek, but it will reassure you of God's presence in your life, and help you trust in His providential care.

Books will be passed out at our first study on September 15th, and after reading the first chapter together, we'll decide how to proceed for the remaining chapters.

We will be moving back into in the auditorium this year, and will meet at 6:30 while the kids are in youth groups.

## Sunday's Prayer

*Offered during Praise Time*

Dear Lord,

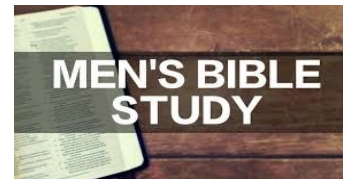
My prayer for today is to have the will to wait on you, to serve you alone, and not depend on myself. Help me to live my life with strength and purpose, but to rely on you above all. Lord, be my strength. Because when I desire to honor you with every part of my life, then my soul knows that I am fulfilling my rightful purpose in life. Forgive me, Lord, when I fail to seek you; when I can rely on my own wisdom or desire my own glory. Stir up in me a great desire for you. No matter what I'm doing or where I am, may I seek you with my whole heart. Your name lasts forever and we offer these praises to you, our strong and mighty God. Amen



## High School Students

We are beginning our time together on Sunday evenings this Fall by examining a book titled "sticky faith". What a cool title! We all want a faith that sticks to our lives, that gives us direction and assurances as we live out each day. The glue that would make a faith sticky is presented through a series of interactive, futuristic, situational questions that will surely prompt a lot of discussion.

I've been with you all for awhile now and I know you love Jesus! So do I, more and more each day! "Sticky faith" is one ultimately founded in our love for Christ, is Christ centered, and is trusting in His grace. So, there is no doubt we will continue to honor and glorify Him on Sunday evenings. It will be fun to work through ideas on how to live out your faith in the variety of situations you will encounter in high school or college! Casey and Erica look forward to seeing you on Sunday nights!



If you signed up for a book to participate in our study of Galatians, please stop by my office on Sunday to retrieve your copy. If you didn't sign up and would like to attend, I have a few extra so no problem!

We have a great group of men planning to attend this study! Our first evening to gather will be Thursday, September 5 at 7pm. Let's meet here at the church to digest the first chapter and decide from there where we can have future meetings given the size of our group.



The Youth Group Kick Off will be here soon! As you are aware, the high school students wanted to invite anyone in the Foster Care Community to join us and celebrate a fun day together. It is shaping up nicely, the kids are working hard, and finishing touches to our plans are being completed. As you spread the word about our afternoon, here is a snapshot of activities planned:

- A carnival row of games such as a ring toss, fishing hole, marble racing, giant tic tac toe, can toss, and others.
- Two inflatables—a bounce house and 40ft long obstacle course.
- Snacks comprising of popcorn, snow cones, cotton candy, and lemonade shake-ups.
- A prize table for tickets earned at the carnival games.
- Face painting and Nine Square

I hope you are planning to spend the afternoon with us on September 8th! The Fun Fair will be from 2pm-5pm, so please help us promote this unique event. Interested parties can register on our community Facebook page. Please feel free to share the invitation there on your page to help us promote the event!.