

When the Rains Came

From the Pastor's Desk

Living for so many years in Oklahoma has provided me a wealth of memories about the land and the climate. Oklahoma is located in the central portion of the country with the Rocky Mountains out to the West and the Gulf of Mexico to the south, placing Oklahoma in the mid-

dle of two major weather affecting sources. When the cold air of Alaska sweeps over the mountains and begins its march to the Southeast, it sometimes collides with warm air moving north out of the Gulf. When these two air masses come into contact with each other something exciting is going to happen.

For most of the late Spring and Summer months the temperatures begin their steady rise. Most Summer days the outside air temp will hover well into the 90's with some days skyrocketing into the 100's. The land begins to heat up under the unrelenting heat and the ground becomes dry and cracked. During this time the grasses become a brown color and look like they have died. Small ponds and creek beds dry up and become a broken moonscape. The world looks as if all life has abandoned it.

You cannot see the Rockies from Oklahoma. The only indication of their existence is when the sun sets and streaks of shadows streams across the sky. These shadows are the result of the sun setting behind the Rockies. So when one looks to the West and sees something that looks like mountains on the horizon, you know that a storm is developing and coming your way.

For many people storms are a nuisance. They chase them and cause disruption to the daily goings about. Storms can cause breaks in someone's daily routine. But for the farmer, storms can be the answer to prayers. The farmer sees the rain that the storm contains in a different light than the person who lives in town or the cities. The farmer knows that the rain brings with it the promise of an overflowing bounty. The ponds that were parched and dry will begin to fill up and maybe even reach up till it fills up to the very top. The grasses that were brown and look like death will suddenly regain its vitality and green color. The land will move from death to life, and maybe even reach up to the very top. The grasses that were brown and looked like death will suddenly regain its vitality and green color. The land will move from death to life, and green color. The land will move from death to life.

The rains bring life when sometimes there is no life visible. The Bible talks about how the rain comes to a dry land and transforms it back to life. Where we see dry as bones, the rain comes and brings back life. When we have given up and began to shut up our lives the rain comes and new growth can be seen. The flowers that were once missing from the roadside of our lives begin to color and our hopes are renewed with the coming of the rain.

There are many of us who look upon the dry grasses and now dry broken ponds that once held our hopes and dreams. We see the brown and dusty fields that once were filled with multiple hues of color and beauty. But if we would turn our eyes to the west and look to the horizon we might catch a glimpse of a mountain where there should not be any. We will witness the coming of God and the building up of the storm clouds that contain the rain that will fill up our ponds of hope to overflowing. Clouds of rain that will fall will turn the dry and brown fields that we believed dead once more into the colors of the flowers.

For those who have lived in a dry land for so long, the rain is something to be celebrated and I have seen many run outside into the storm and stand still and let the rain fall upon them. These types of people are not bothered by the water as it soaks them to their skin. They relish in the rain as it renews them and the land. They are the ones that glorify in the gifts that God sends to them. They know the power of the rains upon the Earth and see the change that God has effect on.

When your life seems to be dry and there seems to be no moisture in what once was filled with life, turn to the horizon and witness the mountains of clouds as God brings the storms upon the dry land. Go outside and enjoy the feel of the rain as it falls upon you. What once was dry is now overflowing in abundance.

Praying for you as I hope that you are praying for me. Craig



Christian Women's Fellowship has been blessed to meet every month this year in spite of the challenges of the pandemic. Our last regular meeting will be May 3rd at 2 p.m. in the sanctuary. We look forward to seeing all our members there for a time of fellowship and inspiration. Linda Conder will prepare our devotional. Sherry Skelton will present the lesson entitled "Your Hurts & Your Relationships" from the book <u>Fervent: A Woman's Battle Plan for Serious, Specific, and Strategic Prayer</u> by Priscilla Shirer. A moment of CWF history will be brought by Ann Embrey.

Our annual fundraiser looks a little different this year. We are taking orders and will prepare some delicious foods for you to cook immediately, refrigerate, or freeze for later. Please see the order form that accompanies this article. Also, please keep in mind that this is our only fundraiser of the year. It enables us to support many wonderful outreach projects which are at the heart of CWF. Thank you all for your generous support!

By Sherry Skelton

STOCK YOUR FREEZER CWF FUNDRAISER ORDER FORM

Name of Item

Chicken Spaghetti Casserole King Ranch Chicken Casserole Almond Pound Cake Apricot Nectar Cake Chocolate Cake Strawberry Cake Peanut Butter Cake

Size of Item 6 x 8 x 2" 6 x 8 x 2" Loaf Pan 1/2 Cake 8 x 8 x 2" 8 x 8 x 2" 8 x 8 x 2"

Number Needed

Signature: _____

Phone: _____

Order forms due by Tuesday, May 18.

Please place form in the offering box, bring it to the office, or call Lynn at 972-551-4700, or contact Helen Remes at 219-765-1310 or Sherry Skelton at 469-474-0556.

Pick-up will be:

Saturday, May 29 from 10:00-11:30 or Sunday, May 30 immediately following church.

We are asking for a minimum donation of \$10.00 per item due at pick up. Location of pick up is in the basement of the church.



Serving Schedule for May 2021

Lay Leader: Scott Gilmore

Sunday, May 2, 2021

Elders: Helen Remes & Dale Hogue **Greeting:** Ron & Jan Compton, David & Carol Dickens, Addison Cross **Acolyte:** Valcus Best **Sound System:** Lisa Stevens **Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris

Sunday, May 9, 2021

Elders: Dana & Sherry Skelton **Greeting:** Jerry Vick, Erik Vick, Clay Norris, Reese Norris, Liz Palmer **Acolyte:** Lynna Johnson **Sound System:** Mike LeVasseur **Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris

Sunday, May 16, 2021

Elders: Mike Siemann & Scott Gilmore **Greeting:** Kristi Johnson, Barbara Gale, Denise Record **Acolyte:** Elliot Cross **Sound System:** Sherri Winton **Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris

Sunday, May 23, 2021

Elders: Craig & Prissy Shaffer **Greeting:** Linda Conder, Lynda Roberts, Ann Winton, Ann Barrow **Acolyte:** Kinsler Bratz **Sound System**: Lisa Stevens **Camera Operator:** Ryder Norris

Sunday, May 30, 2021

Elders: Raymond Sparks & Linda List Greeting: Ron & Jan Compton, David & Carol Dickens, Addison Cross Acolyte: Remington Cross Sound System: Mike LeVasseur Camera Operator: Ryder Norris





Those For Whom Prayer is Needed (Know that we are praying for you)

Our Church Family: Terry Condran, Ronnie Glenn, Kurt Cone, Jay Cole, Guylene & Robert Ballard, Pat Sparks, Ruth LeVasseur, Pat Hopper, John Hegar* Wayne Howe, Charlotte Gilmore

Our Extended Church Family: Barbara Beatty, Ariel Baska, Don Dozier, Evelyn O'Lexy, June Breazeale* Marcia Gordon Hudson, Kelly Lane, Della & Susan May, Family of Randy Tankersley, Dale Author, Robert LaRue, Diana Inge



Jim & Pat Johnson Jerry & Ann Vick—Maintenance Fund

<u>George Purnell</u>

Barbara & Sarah Coffman—Maintenance Fund

In Honor Of

<u>JW & Ann Barrow</u>

Pat Hopper—General Rund



OUTREACH SPECIAL OFFERINGS

The church has received two special offerings thus far this year, Juliette Fowler Communities -\$545.00 and Jarvis Christian College - \$660.00. We are praising God for your faithfulness to the mission of the church.

Our third special offering for the year will be on May 23rd for Inman Christian Center. Thank you for your generosity in advance.

INMAN CHRISTIAN CENTER

The Mission of the Inman Christian Center is to empower children, youth, elderly and families who are living within the communities that Inman serves to develop to their full physical, mental and spiritual potential.



INMAN CHRISTIAN CENTER - 1214 COLIMA ST. - SAN ANTONIO, TX 78207

Inman Christian Center was founded in 1913 by the Christian Women's Board of Missions of the Christian Church through the work of Dr. Samuel Guy Inman. Inman is a neighborhood based community center serving the needs of low- income individuals and families in the inner city of San Antonio. Inman provides childcare, social services, education, recreation, and emergency food assistance as well as housing for individuals who are elderly and/or disabled.

BAG LADIES NEED PLASTIC BAGS

We thought we might never need to ask you again.....to save plastic bags for us. In 2019 Reece Norris and his fellow Scouts collected thousands of bags for the Sleeping Mat project. We now have one box left so we are again needing bags.

We are aware that Walmart will stop issuing free plastic bags on May 1st but you shop at other stores that still give them away. We are asking you to collect them for us and drop them in one of the boxes provided or just place your bags at the foot of the stairs in the Family Center.

Please send us ONLY GROCERY STORE TYPE BAGS!!! Other sizes and types of plastic do not work for our projects.





It's time to start thinking about our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox project. Listed below are a few items to keep in mind until August, when we begin our project promotion in full force.

We would prefer to have an actual

shoebox filled and brought to the church. However, if you are unable to leave your home, a second option would be to create a shoebox at the Samaritan's Purse website.

Visit https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operationchristmas-child/buildonline or search "build a shoebox online". You can select the age, boy or girl, and the items you want to give to that child. The cost is \$25. Just be sure and let me know if you have selected this option so that we can include it in our count.

This year our goal is 100 boxes. Please invite a friend to do a box along with you. The majority of our boxes collected last year were delivered to Mexico on December 3, 2020. Start collecting items now and you will be on target to assemble your box this fall. Operation Christmas Child dedication will be held on November 14th.

If you have any questions, please contact Alice Hogue at 469-855-1779.



THE LEAST OF THESE

SERENITY

CHURCH

By Don Ledbetter

I saw Jesus today.

He was lying under some cardboard and torn dirty blankets early this morning. I could see a little bit of a wool cap and the dirty fingers of his left hand sticking out. He slept behind a dumpster last night that sheltered him from the wind. Homeless.

Later I saw Jesus pushing her shopping cart filled with her empty soda and beer cans on the way to the scrap yard. She shivered as she walked in the freezing temperatures wearing only a thin sweater. Worn out shoes and frayed socks protected her feet. Almost naked.

Around Noon I saw Jesus sitting outside a restaurant on the sidewalk next to his backpack. Head down and worn out from years on the road. People stepped around him avoiding eye contact. Hungry.

I see Jesus everyday. He doesn't look like the pictures hanging on Sunday School walls. He doesn't match the tall strong clean appearance that is often presented in Churches. He doesn't look all that victorious. He looks neglected. He looks needy. He looks desperate and alone.

I see Jesus everyday. Didn't He say he shows up as "the least of these"? Didn't He say that when we provide for "the least of these" we are providing for Him? Did He really mean that? Do we really believe what He said?

How can we hope to find Him in our worship services if we ignore Him on our streets? Maybe we have a hard time believing that the King of kings and Lord of lords would be "the least of these".

I see Jesus everyday. I expect to see Him today. I will look for Him today. I will reach out and serve Him today with maybe some coffee and a donut. Maybe a new coat. I'll see what He needs and do my best to meet it.

Oh! I see Him now.

SHOEBOXES, SHOEBOXES, SHOEBOXES

The Outreach committee will again this year pack shoeboxes for the local homeless. The boxes will be delivered to Serenity Corner for their Christmas celebrations. Last year we took them about 100 shoeboxes – packed by our members, the Methodist church members and our Spanish congregation. We need you to begin saving shoeboxes, any size works. We can store them in the Serenity Pantry until needed. And you can begin collecting items to pack in your shoebox come December. In the photo you see one load of the boxes from 2020.



Margaret Lindley Nigh Interview 1/14/1998 by Ann Embrey From Hulsey Library DVD & Ancestry.com research

Margaret Frances Lindley was born 4 Oct 1905 in Terrell TX to Dr. William Rufus Lindley and Nelle Galbraith. She died 10 Jun 1999 in Terrell TX. She was interviewed on video on 14 Jan 1998. [DVD is labeled "City of Terrell - Margaret Lindley" at the Hulsey Library, Terrell.]

She was married to Gifford Hubbard Nigh (b. 18 Apr 1918) by Rev. Charles Mull of the First Christian Church Terrell. Gifford Nigh died 31 Jul 2008 in Terrell. They had no children.

Margaret's father was born in Cumby, TX from a family of physicians. He attended school at Univ of Louisville and in Maryland, then interned at a NY hospital, becoming an eye, ear, nose & throat specialist. He had offices in Terrell in the original American National Bank building. Her mother was Nelle Galbreath, whose family moved from Indiana to Terrell about 1900. Nelle worked as a stenographer before their marriage and lived with her sister's family (Margaret Galbreath Orr), until her marriage on 12 Dec 1900 to Dr. Lindley. Margaret's parents were married by Rev. G. L. Smith of the First Christian Church, Terrell.

As young Margaret was growing up, her family lived for a time with her Aunt "Mag" Margaret Galbreath Orr. Aunt Mag was the 2nd wife of Dr. James Orr (an allopathic doctor), who died in 1904. His sword hung on the wall in the boarding house Aunt Mag operated. It was a "full service" boarding house, serving 3 meals per day. There were not many eating places in town then, so on Easter and Christmas sometimes as many as 40 people came for a quite elegant meal. There was a Christmas tree in the lobby, and a small one also placed in Margaret's room! There were 6 servants (a cook, dishwasher, and helpers in the kitchen, and Charlie the young black dining room server). The cook stove was fueled by coal and the ashes were spread along one side of the house, and she had a nice yard in which to play on the other side. There was a small coal shed at the back.

<u>Downtown Terrell:</u> The coal shed backed up to an alley next to the main street of Terrell (Moore Ave.). There she found a place to play with her dolls without being seen or disturbing the horses in the wagon yard on the other end of the property. Shoppers coming to town in their horse & buggy would park their rig in the wagon yard while they shopped downtown. Also, downtown, you would find saloons on one side of the street opposite other businesses, such as a "Mississippi" store (dry goods), and a millinery shop (run by a young woman who also lived in the same boarding house). Aunt Mag would take Margaret to the first outdoor movie theater, where they would sit on backless benches to watch silent shows. Then, later she and a young friend might walk to one of the 3 picture shows. One cost only 5 cents, while another charged a dime! One of her first playmates was James R. Muckroy. Margaret remembered the Carnegie Library and the Elks House, where she watched the well-dressed members going in for society events.

Margaret's family soon built their own large home at 802 N. Rockwall St. She remembered her first school was at Mrs. Drake's private school, then to primary grades and high school in Terrell Schools. She attended TCU in Denton for 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ years, until she became sick and had to quit for a while. Once well, she went back and took the exams and got her certificate!

Margaret took up painting but did not talk about it. [We are exploring a rumor that one of her paintings might be at the BFTS museum- though not identified on the catalog listing they maintain]. She was one of 12 young ladies selected to take a two-month training class at the "link school", as she called it. The women were to relieve male pilots for duty, while they trained new cadets on the cockpit stage of pilot training. A simulator cockpit was connected by cable to a keyboard-type device in the training hanger, where the link operator could manipulate the simulator's pitching, moving action. Margaret said in her group, the best student could also play the organ (which required the hand and foot coordination needed in the simulator!) The female students were taken up on real flights to experience the movements needed by the pilot. Margaret accumulated 8 hours of flight time! She served as a link trainer from 1942 until the war was over in 1945. One of her co-students became one of the first female air traffic controllers.

(Note: No. 1 BFTS Museum, Terrell, TX has an exhibit showing a link trainer simulator and photos of Margaret Lindley and her co-students. See below.)

Margaret was a member of the following organizations in Terrell, TX: BPW, Social Science Club, Browning Club, Kaufman Co. Card Assoc, and Terrell Heritage Society (where she became a lifetime member). She remembered Grace Cartwright playing the organ at the First Christian Church, Terrell and recalled families: Newton, Coffee, Mary Coffman, the Gibsons (Lucille & Pauline) and Lynette Wilson. Rev. Pinkerton and G. L. Smith were ministers she recalled, as were Rev. Hendrickson from Australia and Rev. Sisterson from New Zealand.

Margaret Lindley and Gifford H. Nigh were married in 1948 by Rev. Charles Mull of the First Christian Church, Terrell TX. No children were reported. During the years of their marriage, they travelled extensively. Mr. Nigh had a degree from SMU in psychology and later in life had a career with the government in the Indian Bureau. They lived in Pine Ridge, Montana, near the Canadian border, then farther south at the Crow Agency, and finally in North Dakota, where he retired, and they returned to Terrell. She preceded her husband in death by about ten years.

Gifford Nigh was a resident at the Colonial Lodge Assisted Living in Terrell until his death in 2008. His obituary expressed the care and attention of the staff, as well as the staff at the American National Bank in Terrell, who looked after his interests.

BFTS Link Trainer used by Margaret Lindley and her co-students. On display at the British Flying Training School in Terrell, Texas.

