

# THE COLDWATER CONTENDER

*"...ye should earnestly contend for the faith..."* (Jude 3)  
**January 31, 2016**

## **Coldwater church of Christ**

8467 State Route 121 N  
Murray, KY 42071

(270) 489-2219

www.coldwatercoc.org

coldwatercoc@wk.net



### **ELDERS**

Richard Price  
Kevin Smith  
Bill Vincent

### **DEACONS**

Johnny Downs  
Josh Fulcher  
Josh Price  
Wesley Tucker

### **PREACHER**

Luke Puckett

### **SUNDAY SERVICE**

Bible Class: 9:30  
AM Worship: 10:15  
PM Worship: 1:00

### **WEDNESDAY**

Bible Class: 7:00pm

### **LADIES CLASS**

Tuesday 10:00am

### **THOSE TO SERVE**

#### **Announcements:**

Josh Fulcher

#### **Lead Singing:**

Kevin Smith

#### **Opening Prayer:**

Luke Puckett

#### **Scripture Reading:**

David Dodd

#### **Lord's Table**

Bill Vincent  
Richard Jones  
David Dodd  
Nathia Whitley

#### **Closing Prayer:**

Richard Jones

#### **Greeters (East)**

Richard and Rita

#### **Greeters (West)**

Elizabeth and Mitchell

### **WELCOME**

Ricky Burse  
And  
New Pathways

### **A Message To Our Visitors**

It is our privilege to have you visiting with us today. Please know that you are our honored guest. Please let us get to know you, and fill out an attendance card so we can have record of you being here. Please return to be with us again at your earliest opportunity. If you have questions or would like to study the Bible with us, please let us know. Thanks again for visiting with us, and may God continue to bless you according to His divine purpose.

# OUR PASSION FOR GROWTH

*By: Jack Gray*

One of the most pressing desires of the Christian is to see the church grow. We want to see New Testament Christianity spread throughout the world and to see our local congregation flourish. This is as it should be, for the nature of all living things is to grow.

In emphasizing our need for growth, we are often pointed to the Jerusalem church. We are reminded of the 3,000 (Acts 2:41), the 5,000 (4:4), how multitudes were added (5:14), and then how they began to multiply (6:7). These are valid illustrations, but sometimes they create impressions which are not true at all.

It is implied that numerical growth is always associated with faithfulness, when Scripture teaches no such thing. When because of persecution (Acts 8:1) the Jerusalem church was reduced from maybe 50,000 to 12 in a single year, there was nothing at all wrong with the church. It was true, loyal, and mission minded as ever before.

It is implied that people are responsible for the increase, when God never placed that burden on us. The suggestion seems to be that if we just do the right things, great growth will automatically follow. Yet, the Bible teaches that God gives the increase (1 Cor. 3:6). Our job is planting and watering. We are not commanded to convert the world or even our neighbor; but we are commanded to preach the Gospel to him. If we do that faithfully and lovingly, we are not responsible for the results.

It is implied that great growth indicates God's approval, when the reverse may be true. Mystic sects have gained millions of followers. Billy Graham has appealed to

the masses by standing for nothing doctrinally. Some of our fastest growing congregations fill their pulpits with twenty-minute "after dinner" speeches that would be acceptable in any denomination.

It is implied that something must be wrong with a congregation that has a declining membership, when it may be stronger and more godly than ever. Let someone leave the church for the world or some social club type of program, and people blame the church. Neither faithful churches nor Christians can be legitimately blamed for one who turns his back on Truth and righteousness. If all of us left, it would be no reflection on the church, but on the person.

This article is not a defense of smallness. It is to make us re-focus on our priorities. We had better be more concerned about Christ's meeting with us, than whether we draw large crowds.

We want to grow, but it is not our first priority. We are in sales. God is still in management. We would rather be "mean and lean" than to sell His approval for "growth."

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

- ⇒ Whitney Tucker (2nd)
- ⇒ Hyland Darnell (3rd)
- ⇒ Ethan Hobbs (3rd)
- ⇒ Linda Jones (6th)

## Announcements

- ⇒ **Reading plan:** Ezekiel
- ⇒ **Team:** Team leaders meet today.
- ⇒ **Area events:** Please see bulletin board for more info. Several meetings, singings, and Bible schools are coming up in our area.
- ⇒ **New Personal invitation handouts** are available . Please make sure to take some and handout or leave with a tip, and invite someone to our service!
- ⇒ **Monthly Men's Class:** Will be held on Tuesday Feb 02 at 6:30pm here at the building.
- ⇒ **Workday:** Thanks to all who helped.
- ⇒ **Visit:** We will visit Kirksey tonight. They start at 6pm.
- ⇒ **5th Sunday Singing and Potluck:** Today
- ⇒ **Guest Speaker:** Rickie Burse will speak this morning
- ⇒ **Pantry item** for this week is: Pork and Beans

## Prayer/Sick List

- ⇒ Hazel Brandon
- ⇒ Mae Downs
- ⇒ Johnny Downs
- ⇒ Hyland Darnell
- ⇒ Norma Darnell (Has found out she has Parkinson's disease)
- ⇒ Jonnie Hutchison (Amber's father is having eye trouble)
- ⇒ David Brandon
- ⇒ Debbie Smith (Kevin's sister-in-law-cancer)
- ⇒ Greg Black (Kathy Black's son)
- ⇒ Larry Pea (Cousin of Judy Black, has cancer)
- ⇒ Loretta Haley (cancer)
- ⇒ David Edwards (Josh Fulcher's uncle-cancer)
- ⇒ Billy Irvan
- ⇒ Debbie Edwards (Josh Fulcher's)
- ⇒ Trudy Smith
- ⇒ Mallory Harrison (cancer)
- ⇒ Wanda Riley (Josh Fulcher's Aunt)
- ⇒ James McAbee
- ⇒ Dorothy McNeely (Richard Adams' sister, has cancer)
- ⇒ Derek Adams (Richard Adams' grandson, has leukemia)
- ⇒ Richard & Rachel Guill (Rachel was placed in a nursing home)
- ⇒ Lashell Jones
- ⇒ Michael Inman (Tonya Jones' stepdad)
- ⇒ Maria's sister-continuing to recover from heart surgery.
- ⇒ Lucetria Hutchison (Ronnie's mother)
- ⇒ Jay Kolb (Friend of Bill and Maria has brain tumor)
- ⇒ Caleb Teasly (Kevin's cousin's son, 4 years old)
- ⇒ Continue to remember all those who have lost loved ones this year

## WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

Hear the Word  
*(Rom 10:17)*

Believe the Word  
*(John 8:24)*

Repent  
*(Luke 13:3)*

Confess Christ  
*(Rom 10:10)*  
*(Acts 8:37)*

Be Baptized  
*(Acts 2:38)*  
*(Acts 22:16)*

Remain Faithful  
*(Rev 2:10)*  
*(Acts 8:12-24)*

Heaven can be your  
home if you obey God!  
*(Heb 5:8-9)*

Please visit our website at  
[www.coldwatercoc.org](http://www.coldwatercoc.org).  
You will find bulletins,  
sermon outlines, and  
other helpful links and  
material.



## MEMORY VERSE FOR THE WEEK

Ezekiel 33:8 When I say to the wicked, 'O wicked man, you shall surely die!' and you do not speak to warn the wicked from his way, that wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand.

## GREEK WORD OF THE WEEK

**Word:** noutheteō (νουθετέω)

**Pronounced:** *noo-thet-eh'-o*

**Translated** into the word we use today: **Warn**

**Meaning:** according to Strong is: to put in mind, that is, (by implication) to caution or reprove gently: - admonish, warn. Thayer adds: 1) to admonish, warn, exhort

**Supporting verse:** 1Thessalonians 5:14 Now we exhort you, brethren, warn those who are unruly, comfort the fainthearted, uphold the weak, be patient with all.

## THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

In Ezekiel 33, we see that God charges Ezekiel to be like a watchman for Israel. A watchman would sit up on the tower and look for any incoming and imposing dangers. If they saw any danger, they would blow a trumpet and warn others to make ready. God only tells Ezekiel to be like a watchman. He was to be more like a spiritual watchman. God tells him that He is going to punish Israel for their wickedness and that they needed to repent. Ezekiel's job was to WARN them so that they should get prepared and repent before God's wrath came down on them. Today we are like Ezekiel. We are God's watchmen and are to warn others. We are to "WARN those who are unruly". Why? Because Christ is coming back one day to call all to His judgment (2Cor 5:10). We will all face this judgment, and if we are not prepared for it, we will be cast away from God forever into torments. This is why we have to warn others because we know of this day. We know it is coming and others might not be ready for it, so we warn. Going back to Ezekiel 33, if we don't warn, then these people will die in their sins, but we will be held accountable for them on that day. If we warn and they don't change, they will still die in their sins, but their blood won't be on our hands. So, are you warning?



**Bible question:** Who was Paul's teacher?

**Last week's question and answer:** What will happen to the one who "mocks his father' and "scorns obedience to his mother"?

**Answer:** A raven would pick out the eye and an eagle would eat it.(Prov 30:17)

**Those answering:** Kay Robertson, Linda Jones, Helen Tidwell, Peggy Newsome, Rachel Adams, Johnny and Mae Downs