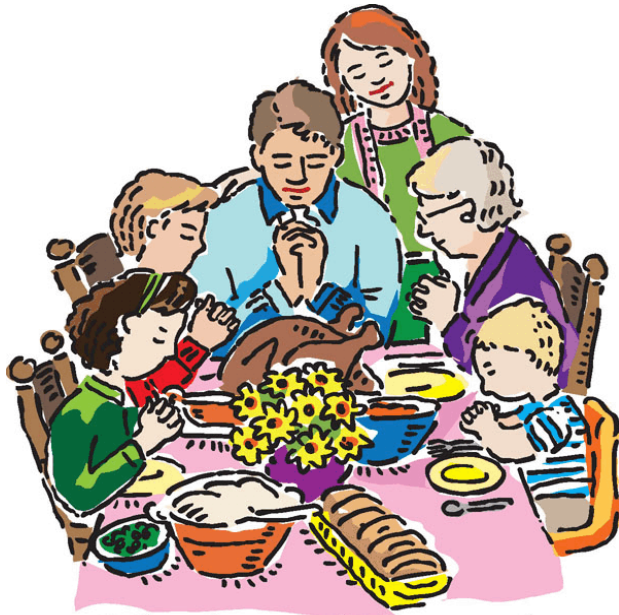


Independent Assemblies

November 2008 Newsletter



***"Blessing and glory and
wisdom and thanksgiving and
honor and power and might
be to our God
forever and ever! Amen."***

Revelation 7:12, NRSV

Whereas our Lord Jesus has said, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature," we, the members and churches of the Independent Assemblies, do associate ourselves together, and pledge ourselves to fulfill this command by giving ourselves to the service of our Lord through the operation of the Spirit, and submitting to His direction, we shall minister the "Good News" of Christ through every avenue made available unto us by God. And our lives shall be spent in this purpose and Holy calling that our Lord may be glorified on that Day that He shall gather His people unto Himself. We are not a denomination, nor do we have any desire to become one. We are simply a Fellowship of Ministers and Churches brought together by God's Love and our common beliefs.

Mickey Keith, *President* P.O. Box 1546, Ada, OK 74821 -
580/310-0222 Phone & Fax - Email: mickey.keith@gmail.com

Dr. Ted Estes, *Vice President* P.O. Box 2248, Claremore, OK 74017
918/341-8344 Fax: 918/341-8352
Email: pastorted@lifechangerchurch.com

Ken Anderson, *Secretary/Treasurer* - P.O. Drawer 1120, Lexington, OK
73051 - 405/527-6030 405/527-9755 - Fax 405/527-9387 or
405/527-1074 - Email: kda@valornet.com

Robert O. Johnson, *Director of World Missions* - 910 North 9th, Blackwell, OK
74631 - 580/363-2734 - Fax: 580/363-1042
Call (Toll free) 1-877-898-3171 - Email: roj@clarionmissions.org

Jerry Edmon, *Board Member* - P.O. Box 862, Elgin, TX 78621 -
512/281-5316 - Fax: 512/281-5956 Email: jedmon@aol.com

IA Website:

www.independentassemblies.org
Webmaster: Michael Keith -
webmaster@independentassemblies.org

Please send all Credentials Applications, Church & Ministry Applications to the President's Office. Send all Renewal Fees, Offerings, Missions Funds, etc., Newsletter Articles and Address Corrections to the Secretary/Treasurer's Office.

Annual Credentials Fees: Exhorter- \$50.00, License- \$65.00,
Ordination- \$75.00

Reinstatement Fee: \$10.00

Annual Church Fees: Fellowship Churches- \$50.00,
Member Churches - \$100.00

Annual Ministry Fees: (Not-for-Profit)\$100.00

2008 Interstate Meetings & Events

December 8 - MENDING HEARTS CHURCH
Newalla OK- 405-386-4351
Pastor, Rev. David Tompkins

Ordination services are held at the April, and October Meetings and the Annual Conference.

2009 Interstate Meetings & Events

Jan. 12 - CHURCH OF LIVING WATER
Muskogee OK - 918/682-1540
Pastor, Rev. John Sokolis

Feb. 9 - LIVING FAITH CHURCH
Moore, OK - 405/794-3104
Pastor, Rev. Jimmy Milligan

March 9- LIFE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Ada, OK - 580/427-6230
Pastor, Rev. Mickey Keith

April 13 - LIFE CHANGER CHURCH
Claremore, OK - 918/341-8344
Pastor, Dr. Ted Estes

May 11 - CALVARY TEMPLE - Edmond OK.
1801 S. Kelly, - 405/348-2334
Pastor, Rev. Dale Drain

June 8 - FIRST GRACE CHURCH
Glenpool, OK - 918/744-4717 or
918/809-9744
Pastor, Rev. Ronnie Spoon

| Southeast Okla. District

Rev. Billy Hunter, District Rep.
Antlers, OK, 580/298-2740
email: cffantlers@yahoo.com

Southwest Okla. District

Rev. Donnie Miller, District Rep.

Cyril, OK 580/464-2224 or 512-3657
email: revd@tds.net

Northeast Okla. District

Rev. Mac Blackwell, District Rep.
Locust Grove, Ok - 918/479-6057
email: mblackwell@sstelco.com

North Central Texas District

Rev. Daniel Sue, Regional Rep.
Kemp TX, 903/498-4704
Cell 214/205-8647
email: sued7@ednet10.net

Nov 17 – Yearly Pastors Planning Meeting

South Central Texas District

Regional Rep. - Rev. JERRY EDMON
512/281-5316 - Fax 512/281-5956
email- Jedmon1234@aol.com

Midwest Regional District

Regional Rep. - Rev. MARK MAYNARD
618/931-4106
email: For-markm@juno.com

Arkansas District

Rev. Charles Kendrick, District Rep.
Alexander, AR. 501/303-0831

Special Dates for 2008

Nov. 11 - Veteran's Day
Nov. 23 - Bible Sunday
Nov. 23-30 - National Bible Week
Nov. 27 - Thanksgiving Day
Dec. 21 - First Day of Winter
Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve
Dec. 25 - Christmas Day
Dec. 31 - New Year's Eve

**Our bylaws and policies and forms are available for
you to read and print from our website.
www.independentassemblies.org**

December 2008 Interstate Meeting

Mending Hearts Church will host the December State Wide Minister's Fellowship this year. Pastors **David and Shonda Tompkins** invite you to join them for a very special time of

ministry and refreshing. This year's theme is "Can Trend Meet Tradition"? Enjoy Worship Experiences, Ministry of the Word and Spirit, Great Fellowship and food! Our MHC Staff and Volunteers are excited and preparing for your arrival to make this fellowship relaxing and memorable.

The afternoon services will begin at 2:30pm with Associate Pastor **Adam Starling** of **Victory Church**. Adam serves as the Pastor of the Sr. High Youth Group and is married to Singer/Writer/Recording Artist, Kristy Starling. Adam is tested and proven to be relevant with the Gospel message to today's generation.

At 4:00pm, **Rev. Spike**, Pastor of Youth America, Student Ministries of Church of the Harvest in Oklahoma City will be speaking. If you have never heard Rev. Spike and his unique style of bringing the Word across to a clear understanding, you don't want to miss this session.

Dinner will be served at 5:30pm in our fellowship Hall. Smoked BBQ is provided by our good friend Chuck Stevens at the Oklahoma Ribber in Oklahoma City. Special treats and gifts are available for everyone throughout the day.

The evening Service will begin at 7:00pm. Our speaker, **Joel Johnson with Teen Mania Ministries**, co-host of Acquire the Fire conferences with Ron Luce is known around the globe with young people and those with the heart of this generation. Joel started preaching at the age of 14. He has traveled to over fifteen nations to share the gospel. Joel can and will give us the information necessary to bridge the gaps and make our ministries relevant to all.

It is our desire that you come and be blessed, encouraged and refreshed. If you have any questions about this event, email Pastor David direct at david.tompkins@mendinghearts.net Mending Hearts Church is located at 14818 South Peebly Rd. in Newalla, OK. Call (405) 386-4351

Directions from the East or West – Take I-40 to the Peebly Road exit located between Midwest City and Shawnee. Go South on Peebly Road approx. 4.5 miles to South 149th. Mending Hearts Church is on the East (left).

Coming from the South – at Highway 9 (at the Thunderbird Casino) go north for seven and 1/2 miles. Road will jog to the west, then north again.

— For those planning to stay overnight, we recommend these hotels:

AmeriSuites Midwest City (800)346-8357; La Quinta Inn I-40 (800)346-8357; Best Western Midwest City (405)737-6060; Comfort Inn and Suites East (405)733-1339

Our website www.Mendinghearts.net

**World Harvest 2008
Report**



We want to thank all of you who contributed to the World Harvest offering this year. A total of \$20,955.00 was received for our fund this year. Love offerings of \$4,000.00 was paid out of that to the 20 missionaries who attended the Missions Conference in Blackwell, OK. \$4,585.00 was designated to specific projects or missionaries leaving a balance of \$12,370.00. \$2500.00 was given to the Director of World Missions, Robert O. Johnson, leaving a balance of \$9,870.00. Then \$3,898.00 was added to that from the Lexington Missions account making a total of \$13,768.00 that was assigned to 26 missions projects which included airline travel expenses, a PA system, food for orphanages, medical expenses, sewing machines, children's Christmas projects in Mexico, building materials for a church in India, rice for the Philippines, video projector, property in Jamaica, truck expense for Mexico, building class rooms in the Philippines, food for a minister's conference in India, bibles for Mexico, a power plant and lighting system for Mexico, truck and trailer maintenance, and investing in a radio station in Nigeria. It was a pleasure to see this money go to projects all over the world. Thanks again to all who made it possible.

Pastor's Wives Retreat Coming February 26th and 27th, 2009. The retreat will be held in Guthrie, OK. There will be more information to follow. Mark your calendars.

ATTENTION MEMBERS: Do we have your correct address, phone number, email address & home church affiliation? — We will be sending out the new membership directories after the first of the year. We try to keep our database as accurate as possible. Some of our members have moved and we were able to change their addresses due to "Moved, No Forwarding Address" from the Post Office. Unless you have contacted us to give us the phone number change, new church affiliation, change in marital status, etc, your listing in our database and in the directory will be incorrect. Please help us keep your information up to date. ---- Send these changes to the Lexington office.

YOUR NOT-FOR-PROFIT MINISTRY may be included under the covering of the 501c3 of Independent Assemblies. You will have the same IRS covering as churches. Go to our website to print application form for Not-for-Profit and the instruction sheet to make application, or contact the Ada or Lexington office (See back of newsletter).

“If at first you do succeed, try something harder.”

-- Ann Landers

Integrity Starts Early

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10 year old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him.

"How much is an ice cream sundae?"

"Fifty cents," replied the waitress.

The little boy pulled his handout of his pocket and studied a number of coins in it. "How much is a dish of plain ice cream?" he inquired.

Some people were now waiting for a table and the waitress was a bit impatient. "Thirty-five cents," she said brusquely.

The little boy again counted the coins. "I'll have the plain ice cream," he said. The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and departed.

When the waitress came back, she began wiping down the table and then swallowed hard at what she saw. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies -- her tip.

Let's Not Forget — With all the focus placed on the down economy and its affect on non-profits, the Giving USA Foundation, which tracks overall philanthropy in the country, is reminding people of a few things. The good news? According to the organization, total donations from people of all ages exceeded \$300 billion in 2007—an all-time high. More than 75 percent of that came from individuals, while the remainder consisted of corporate donations, foundations or charitable bequests. However, the bad news for ministers is that church- and ministry-based giving continues to diminish. In 1967, more than half of all charitable dollars went to faith groups; today, that's down to one-third. In fact, the most recent study on church giving from Empty Tomb Inc., states that “the total portion of per capita income given to churches in 2006 was lower (in 2006) than in the worst year of the Great Depression.” [usatoday.com, 10/8/08; Religion News Service, 10/11/08]

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN?since you have glanced at the back of our newsletter. We have all the basic information regarding our fellowship, how to contact members of the board and , routing of mail and

correspondence, credential fees, etc. It is there for your convenience. Also don't overlook the inside of the cover of our newsletter for upcoming dates, contact information on our district representatives, holidays, etc.

OUR COMPLIMENTS to all of the pastors and churches who have hosted the Interstate and District Meetings this year. Thank you for all the hard work, planning, and finances that are necessary to host meetings that promote ministerial fellowship and unity among the brethren. We have experienced some of the finest preaching, teaching, praise and worship, and hospitality in these meetings, making it very worthwhile to attend.

If you have never attended any of the fellowship meetings or conferences you are missing an excellent opportunity for fellowship. When you get your newsletter each month, mark your calendar and make plans to attend as many of these services as you possibly can.

How to Turn Thanksgiving into Thanksliving

By Adrian Rogers

O that men would praise the Lord for His goodness and for His wonderful works to the children of men... And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of Thanksgiving and declare His works with rejoicing.” (Psalm 107:8 & 22)

It has been said that talk is cheap. We thank the Lord and we say “Lord, we're so thankful, we're so grateful for all that you've done for us.” Well, do you know what we need to do? We need to turn Thanksgiving into Thanks-living. That is, to offer to God the sacrifices of thanksgiving.

Now, if we're thankful it really ought to show in our lives, and I don't believe that there's any other sin quite like the sin of ingratitude. Shakespeare said, “How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child.” Those of you who have loved and labored and invested much in the health of your children know how grieved you are when your children do not seem to appreciate or to be thankful for the



and lives

sacrifices that parents have made. Mothers have gone down in the valley of the shadow of death to bring these precious children into this world and dads have labored long and hard—what a sacrifice.

I think Shakespeare was right. Milton, the blind poet, said that a person with an ungrateful spirit only has one vice because all of the rest of his vices are virtues compared to ingratitude. Every other sin is a virtue compared to the sin of ingratitude.

How terrible not to be grateful to God, and yet in America all around we can find those who are “grumbly hateful” rather than humbly grateful. How can we translate our Thanksgiving today into Thanks-living? We’re to offer to God what the Bible calls the “sacrifices of thanksgiving.”

1 Peter 2 tells that those of us who are saved are priests. Have you ever seen a Baptist priest before? I’m a Baptist priest, and you’re a priest. Now, I don’t walk into my collar, I back into my collar, but I’m still a Baptist priest, and you are a priest. All of those of us who are saved are priests of God, and every priest ought to be able to offer sacrifices to the Lord. Peter tells us that because we’re priests, we’re to offer up spiritual sacrifices.

You can say, “Oh we’re thankful” and then eat a big meal and watch football. It ought to go a little farther than that. You ought to have more in your Thanksgiving than stuffing yourself and then becoming a couch potato. You need to do something else besides that in order to show how thankful to God you are.

Romans 12 talks about the sacrifice of your very person, of yourself: “I beseech you therefore brethren by the mercies of God that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice wholly, acceptable unto God which is your reasonable service, and be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind that ye may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.”

In verse one he talks about a living sacrifice—the very first sacrifice that we’re going to offer is what we call a living sacrifice, which is your body. Why should you do that? Notice that the apostle Paul says, “I beseech you therefore brethren.” It’s almost as if he’s on his knees in front of you. But who was speaking when Paul spoke here? God was speaking. We often talk about our prayer to God; this is God’s prayer to man—He is saying “I beseech you, I plead with you.”

If the Lord Jesus were to come and get in front of you and fold His hands and look up in your face and say I beg you do this, would you do it?

Here's the reason for it: "by the mercies of God," on the basis of what God has done for you. Why should I give my body to Him? Because He gave His body for me. He suffered, bled and died upon that cross and when we drove those nails into His hands his quivering heart was saying "I love you, I love you." Those nails were my sins and my hard heart was the hammer that drove those nails into the palms of Jesus, and yet He suffered and bled and died for our sins.

All of Romans leading up to this passage tells us about the mercies of God, and then Paul says, "I beseech you therefore brethren because of the mercies of God, because of God's goodness that you present your bodies to him." You see, drops of grief can never repay the debt of love I owe. You can only say "Lord, I give myself away, 'tis all that I can do."

From PulpitHelps - Nov. 2008



Dr. James Tollett

is a former Associate Professor of Practical Theology and the former Director of the Oral Roberts

University School of Theology and Missions Modular and Distance Education Program. He has three decades of teaching experience at the university level and has been in pulpit ministry for four decades. He is a sought after preacher and conference speaker. He also was a contributing author to the Spirit Filled Life Bible, providing the commentary for the book of Exodus.

His expository preaching is thought provoking and peppered with appropriate humor. The manifestation of Charismatic Gifts may occur either within or after the sermon. Additionally, he has a number of seminars that he has prepared. Cell phone 918/425-4226. Check out his website for more information: www.jtmin.org.

Evangelist Charley Coen has been a member of The Independent Assemblies since 2003. He ministers in both Word & Song and feels a special burden for the small churches who are seeking to make the most of their

resources in this challenging economy. Brother Charley spent 35 years addicted to drugs and the destructive lifestyle of an unsaved professional musician. He now works the streets as a full time Law Enforcement Officer and is available to minister as the Lord leads.

Charley also has extensive experience in Audio/Visual design and consulting so if you are experiencing any technical difficulty or would like to talk with him about ministry he can be reached at 918-698-1027 or email him JesusIsLord@CharleyCoen.com

Heartland Worship Center in Evansville IN is looking for a youth/ associate minister. Our church has a web site at <http://hwcfamily.org> We have about 80 families in our church. Contact Tony Hodgson, 618-263-3689 Feel free to call or respond by email. hodgson137@yahoo.com

New Church Would Appreciate Your Help!

Pastor-T (Thomas) & Ms. April Buckley along with Pastor Aaron Girod have recently planted Judah Worship Center in Yukon, Oklahoma. For the past five months, they have been meeting the Buckley's living room, but now are proud and excited to announce that Judah Worship Center now has a public home! Absolutely anything you can invest in this growing ministry (furnishings, chairs, pulpit, sound system, funding, etc.) would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your prayers! You can reach Pastor-T @ 405-637-7817 or pastort@judahworship.net

We Welcome These New Members

Judah Worship Center - Yukon, OK
Charles City Mosaic - Charles City, IA
Calvary Ministry - Carrollton, KY
New Hope Lighthouse - Stratford, OK
Lori D. Greenawalt - Greenwood, AR
Neal D. Hector - Purcell, OK
Timothy D. Lochridge - Sulphur, OK
Floyd W. Perry, Jr. - Moore, OK

Patricia Smith has a new book. This one is the first in a series of books she has written that chronicles the miracles that she has witnessed in the past 40 years of ministry is now available.

The title is "Marvelous Miracles, the Early Years" and you can obtain a copy from Amazon.com by logging into that website and typing the title into the search box, author Patricia Smith.

"I believe this is definitely something I was impressed of the Lord to do. At present, I am hard at work on the second book of the series, which will be an account of miracles witnessed in a move of God we were privileged to be in, in 1973 in Tampa, FL. – In the interim, this first book is ready for reading! I hope you will get a copy and that it will be a blessing to you. --

Pat Smith " patriciasmith1234@hotmail.com

Want to take a missions trip into Mexico?

Border or interior, lodging, food, and transportation provided. We can create a trip to meet your groups desire. Contact: Eagle's Nest Ministries rb@eaglesontheborder.com – or phone 417-693-2941. Visit us at www.eaglesontheborder.com

Two kinds of gratitude: the sudden kind we feel for what we take, the larger kind we feel for what we give. Edwin Arlington Robinson (1869–1935)

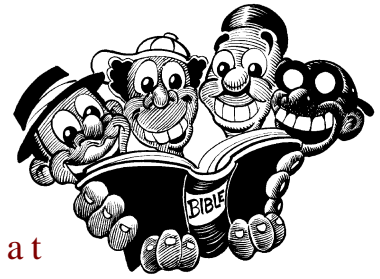


Thanksgiving ---- A prominent American who was visiting Argentina was asked by the president of the republic, "Why has South America gotten on so poorly and North America so well; What do you think is the reason?"

The visitor replied, "I think the reason is found in the fact that the Spaniards came to South America seeking gold, while the Pilgrim Fathers came to North America seeking God."

See: Deut 4:29; 1 Kings 3:4-15; Psa 69:32; Zech 9:3,4; Mat 6:33; 2 Pet 2:15

God the Parent



Whenever your kids are out of control, you can take comfort from the thought that even God's omnipotence did not extend to God's kids.

After creating heaven and earth, God created Adam and Eve. And the first thing He said to them was:

"Don't."

"Don't what?" Adam asked.

"Don't eat the Forbidden Fruit." God replied.

"Forbidden fruit? We got Forbidden Fruit? Hey, Eve..we got Forbidden Fruit!"

"No way!"

"Where?"

"Don't eat that fruit!" said God.

"Why?"

"Because I am your Creator and I said so!" said God, wondering why he hadn't

stopped after making the elephants.

A few minutes later God saw the kids having an apple break and was angry.

"Didn't I tell you not to eat that fruit?" the 'First Parent' asked.

"Uh huh," Adam replied.



"Then why did you?"

"I dunno," Eve answered.

"She started it!" Adam said.

"Did not!"

"DID so!"

"DID NOT!"

Having had it with the two of them, God's punishment was that Adam and Eve should have children of their own...thus the pattern was set, and it has never changed.

“A Merry Heart Doeth Good Like A Medicine”

PROVERBS 17:22

During court one busy day, the judge quietly passed the clerk a note reading: "Blind on right side, may be falling. Please call someone." — Understandably alarmed, the clerk called for help before whispering to the judge that paramedics were on their way. — Puzzled, the judge pointed to a sagging Venetian blind on the right side of the room and explained, "I was thinking maybe someone from maintenance!"

A man sentenced to prison was put in a cell with an older convict who had been there for many years. — One day, they were talking about their pasts, and the old man said, "Look at me. I'm old and worn out. You'd never believe that I used to live the life of Riley. I wintered on the Riviera, had a boat, four fine cars, the most beautiful women, and I ate in all the best restaurants of France." — "What happened?" his new cellmate asked. — "One day Riley reported his credit cards missing."

Recently, I got to thinking about my first skydiving instructor. During class he would always take the time to answer any of our stupid first-timer questions. — One guy asked, "If our chute doesn't open, and the reserve doesn't open, how long do we have

until we hit the ground?" – Our jumpmaster looked at him and in perfect deadpan and answered, "The rest of your life."

One day the zoo-keeper noticed that "Cheech" the orang-utang was reading two books — the Bible and Darwin's Origin of Species. — Surprised, he asked him, "Why are you reading both those books ?'

"Well," said the orang-utang, "I just wanted to know if I was my brother's keeper or my keeper's brother."

A reporter was interviewing a 104 year-old woman: "And what do you think is the best thing about being 104?" the reporter asked. She simply replied, "No peer pressure."

A pink elephant is a beast of bourbon.

Hey, did you hear about the two cannibals who were eating a clown. One turns to the other and says, "Does this taste funny to you?"

Two good old boys:

So you had a nice Thanksgiving?

Yeah.

Well, I wanted to come over to your house for dinner, but I couldn't make it. What did you have to be thankful for?

I was thankful you couldn't come over for dinner.

ur son had only heard his grandfather pray at Thanksgiving, Easter, and other special occasions; when he, typically, said a long prayer over the food. -One night, after a fun camp-out and fishing trip, grandfather (to our son's surprise) asked a very brief blessing on the food. With a gleam in his eye, our son grinned at his Grandfather and said, "You don't pray so long when you're hungry, do you Grandpa?"

During a friendly argument, Bill asked Jane why she married him in the first place.

"I was just stupid," Jane teased. When Bill said he was happy to hear that, she requested an explanation.

"People get divorced all the time because they fall out of love," Bill said. "But I've never heard of anybody falling out of stupid."

A teacher was taking her first golf lesson. "Is the word spelled 'put' or 'putt'?" she asked the instructor.

"'Putt' is correct," replied the instructor. "'Put' means to place a thing where you want it, of course. 'Putt' means a vain attempt to do the same thing."

"Today I went to buy a toaster and was given a bank as a free gift."

That's All Folks !

