



SOUTH JACKSON BEACON

Vol XV

September 25, 2022

No.39

A Father and a Storm

Recently, a deadly tornado touched down in Westport, Oklahoma, and wound its devastating path and tentacles of destruction due east into Sand Springs, near Tulsa. My 28 year-old daughter was driving home, due west from her Tulsa workplace, on a headlong, collision course with the cloudy killer. Seeing the outline of rain-wrapped funnel clouds directly in front of her, she had, in a complete panic, called home on her cell phone. None of us having lived in an area of the country where these things are a common occurrence for very long, you can imagine her terror as she called us crying, frenzied and frantic. We – her mom and I – being separated and completely cut off from her location by the twister directly between us, could only try to get her calmed down and turned around and driving back towards Tulsa as quickly as she possibly could, hopefully getting her to a larger convenience or department store storm shelter there in Sand Springs to ride it out.

As parents, certainly many of you can imagine our emotions as she stayed on her cell during that life and death dilemma, describing the carnage and damage happening all around her. As she, for instance, told us in a tear-driven panic about the drenching, rain-wrapped darkness directly in front of her; the impenetrable darkness of the deadly twister in her rearview mirror bearing down relentlessly upon her; and the wind-driven gusts which threatened to blow her sideways and into the concrete barriers of the long bridge over the Arkansas River by the Keystone Dam as she crossed it.

While we are certainly by no means perfect parents in any sense, shape, or form of the word, that was enough for me. It didn't matter what might lie between us – Daddy was getting to his 'little girl'

who was coming apart in that storm, no matter what he had go through to get to her. The drive to Sand Springs was a nightmare. And driving through several inches of water on the highway at times; being blown around a bit in the occasional goodly gust of wind; dodging even the tractor-trailers that had pulled over under the overpasses to avoid the deluge of marble-sized hail pellets that threatened to break our windshields as they pounded into our vehicles like a barrage of automatic weapons' gunfire; seeing the undercarriage of the blown-over tractor-trailer on its side just over on the other side of the highway; or even the pile of rubble where the donut store had stood no more than 30 minutes ago as we passed by, wasn't even the worst of that normally 30 minute trip as we chased the tail-end of the that terrible twister to Sand Springs. No, the worst part of that trip was some of our daughter's words and their implications as they swept back over our cell phones... "Daddy I'm going to die!" "I love you mom and dad!" And "I can hear it! Here it comes!" as she hunkered down in the freezer of the Sand Springs convenience store she had made it back to, along with the rest of the frenzied customers when it passed over. And what overwhelming feelings of love and gratitude as we pulled into that convenience store parking lot just a few minutes later and she came running out safely (at least physically if not altogether psychologically) a short couple of minutes after that!

And I couldn't help but think of our Father who is in heaven, and what He went (and continues to go) through to reach His storm-tossed and frantic children in the toughest and most deadly of earthly, sin-swept storms! What He went through to secure our eternal salvation on that cross (Philippians 2:5-8)! And the fact that He will stop at absolutely nothing to calm and keep His children safe, in even the worst and most deadly storms of our lives, if and when we will but call on, and listen to Him - Psalm 46.

*Doug Dingley
Chouteau Hills Church of Christ
Chouteau, OK*

Congregational News & Notes

Prayer Requested

Members

Harold Davis, Mary Bolen
Ron and Nadine McDonald,
Sandra Jordan, Fredie Stewart,
Cindy Kidder, Garmelia Ellis,
Roberta Donaldson, Lisa Dukes,
Doug Crouse, Norma Cogdell
Margie Montgomery, Sue Harris,
Betty Mosely, Teriyaki Anderson
James Morris, Freeman Kidder,
Andy Vaughn, Pearl Johnson,
Ken & Paula Wadley,
Clara Williams, Jane Graves
Charles & Ruby Malone,
Jeff Bliss, Ronald Clouse

Friends & Family

Horace Yearwood, Helen Morris
Beverly Martindale,
Gladys Gowan, Diane Hubbard,
Jeffrey Smith, Betty Turner,
Shirley Bolin, Brandi Rogers,
Jeanette Manley, Wayne Warren
Kenton Lancaster, Glenn Lovell,
Marilyn Ferrell, Justin Puckett
Ramona Thurston, April Richey,
Jamie Rushing

Pantry Item

Canned Peaches

Today's Sermons

AM - A Psalm for Troubling
Times - Psalm 46
PM - singing Night

Happenings

South Jackson

October 16-19

Gospel Meeting with Matt Cook.
Fellowship meal following
morning services.

Weeknight services will start at
6:30 PM

There will be no 5th Fellowship
Meal in October

Area Events

Several are posted on the
bulletin Board

Cards to Send

Harold Davis
64 Coatsland Drive
Jackson, TN 38301

Gordon Love
3324 Riverside Drive
Jackson, TN 38301

Weekly Record

6 AM	4
Bible Class	52/8
AM Worship	81/25
PM Worship	48/6
Wed Bible Study	41/8
Contribution	2693

Those Privileged to Serve

Sept 25 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - M. Wages, G. Cooper

Lead Singing: Mike Wages

Read Scripture:

Carleton Kidder

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Ken Ross

Communion: Paul Hatcher

Contribution:

Charlie Richardson

Oct 2 - AM WORSHIP

6 AM - J. Butcher, R. Pack

Lead Singing: John Smith

Read Scripture:

Costel Gimphu

Opening Prayer:

Ken Ross

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Paul Hatcher

Communion: Carleton Kidder

Contribution:

Jonathan Orr

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Sermon: Singing Night

Closing Prayer: Ken Ross

Communion: Paul Hatcher

PM WORSHIP

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Joe Venable

Sermon: Ray Pack

Closing Prayer: Jerry Butcher

Communion: Ken Ross

Sept 28 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Ray Pack

Opening Prayer:

Marion Thomas

Devotional: Mike Wages

Oct 5 - WED BIBLE STUDY

Lead Singing: Paul Hatcher

Opening Prayer:

Mike Wages

Devotional: Marion Thomas

South Jackson Church of Christ

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Medon, TN

(731) 424-9721

Minister: Ray Pack

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(731) 437-9501

Service Times

Early Worship	6:00 AM
Sunday Bible Class	9:30 AM
Sunday AM Worship	10:30 AM
Sunday PM Worship	5:00 PM
Midweek Bible Study	6:30 PM