

## A FAMINE IN THE LAND

Terry Joe Kee

***“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:” (Amos 8:11)***

Two of man’s greatest needs and desires are for food and water. Most of us (and likely, none of us) have ever known what it is to be hungry and thirsty like the Jews had been at times in their history. We have more than enough even at times when groceries may be reducing the amounts of certain food items we may be able to purchase at one time. We commonly have thrown out more food than many in the world have to eat in a day. We live where water is as close as the faucet and as plentiful as we ever need. If a time comes when we cannot get out to buy food or if the pipes burst due to freezing weather and we are without for a day we panic. Whatever is broken must be fixed immediately and we must get to the store and buy more bread. Otherwise, we are at a standstill. We cannot do anything it seems. When this happens we think we have never been so hungry and needed a drink of water so badly in our lives!

However, Amos said the greatest need known to man is not a hunger for food or a thirst for water, but a hungering and thirsting for the Word of God. God’s Word is our spiritual food and only the Word can satisfy our hungry souls. Peter described the Word of God as being the “sincere milk” desired by a baby (1 Peter 2:2). The Hebrew writer rebukes the Hebrews for not eating the meat and milk of God’s Word (Hebrews 5:12-14). Jesus tells us that only those who are hungering and thirsting for the Word of God can be satisfied (Matthew 5:6). Jesus described himself as the bread of life which must be eaten to live (John 6:47-51).

Yet, in many circles today, God’s Word is not very highly desired or sought after by the souls of men. We no longer find many seeking the Word of God and running to and fro through the streets seeking to find it. Do you know of a time in your life when there has been a greater famine we have faced than the one we face today? It is far worse than any pandemic the world has ever known. One may cost us physical life, but the other takes the soul.

Too often today we are hearing speeches and not sermons. What has happened to those who once had a respect for the Word of God and defended it? What has happened to standing up and giving a “thus saith the Lord?” And what has happened to the pews which would once cry out demanding such to be preached? Have we forgotten it in the pews and reared a generation who do not know God or His Word? Has the Word of God lost its importance in our lives? Without such knowledge we can and will be tossed to and fro in every direction and will lose of focus and spiritual direction. Can the Word we are preaching and teaching be preached in any denominational pulpit and be received without controversy?

Would it not be grand if we had the attitude of Micaiah who said, “As the Lord liveth, even what my God saith, that will I speak” (2 Chron. 18:13)? Paul stood without blood on his hands because he said he had not shunned to declare all the counsel of God (Acts 20:26,27). Do we have blood on our hands? Are we speaking without fear or favor? Do we demand a “Thus saith the Lord?” If not, is it time for us to sit down and evaluate the condition we are in? How long will it be before we are running from city to city seeking to hear the Word of God? May that day never come, but only with vigilance can we assure that the Word is here for the next generation.

## SETTLED IN

Bob Howton

It is both alarming and bewildering to hear friends from other parts of the country bemoaning the fact that the Lord’s church in their area has foolishly gone the way of the popular “Social Craze” which is so prevalent today. It is becoming more and more evident that congregations, of otherwise intelligent people, are scrambling feverishly to become more and more like the flourishing (?) denominational bodies round about them. Huge recreational and social buildings, which were once erected only by “our religious neighbors,” are now cropping up like toadstools everywhere among the Lord’s people.

Congregations which have fallen victim to the “fun and games” mentality watch mutely as millions of dollars and countless hours are expended to promote their self-serving pursuits. Meanwhile, multitudes are moving ever closer to the final judgment, without knowledge of the saving Gospel. “If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?” (James 2:15- 16). Is not the GOSPEL more important than food and water?

*“How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent?” (Romans 10:14,15). And how shall they be sent when all the money is being used for us??*

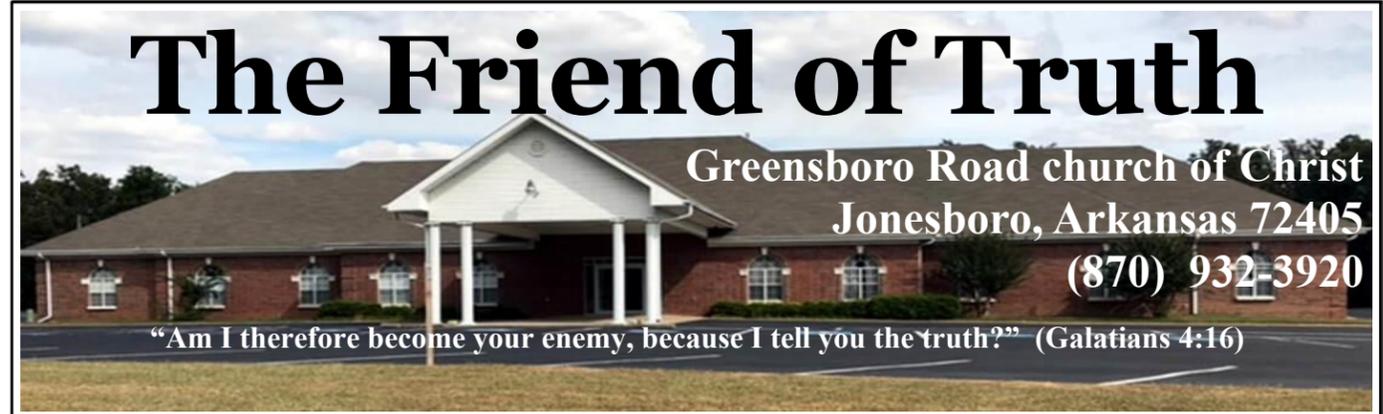
Two members of the Lord’s body were commiserating with each other over the sad state of affairs where they attended worship services. One of them, a leader in the congregation, lamented that he and his wife certainly didn’t “go along” with everything being done there, but as he said, “We’re already settled in here, and there’s no reason to rock the boat.” No reason to rock the boat????!!!! Such attitudes are the very reason most transgressions flourish.

# NEWS AND NOTES

“I was sick, and ye visited me...” (Matthew 25:36)  
Remember in Prayer:

May Calendar addition: Please add \*Reginald and Susan Read- anniversary May 16th

Pray for those directly and indirectly affected by Covid-19, and please keep us updated.  
Micah and Callie Tindall



**SHEPHERDS**

- Dan Nichols
- Randy Oden
- Jody Pickens

**DEACONS**

- Scottie Blanchard
- Jerry Dodson
- Mike Felts
- Jason Garland
- Marshall Lands
- Mark Wooten

**EVANGELIST**

- Terry Joe Kee

**MISSIONARIES**

- Michael Hughes
- Samrit Kammanee
- Arnold Kelley
- Guyana, South America
- Warren, PA

**SERVICES**

**SUNDAY**

- Classes 9:00 a.m.
- Worship 10:00 a.m.
- 5:00 p.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

- Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

**What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

- Hear* the Word of God  
Romans 10:17
- Believe* the Word of God  
John 8:24
- Repent* of your sins  
Luke 13:3
- Confess* your faith in Jesus  
as the Son of God  
Romans 10:9,10
- Be Baptized* for the  
remission of your sins  
Acts 2:38
- Live faithfully*  
Revelation 2:10

“Where there is no vision,  
the people perish....”  
Proverbs 29:18

God Give Us 2020 Vision  
in 2020

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May 31, 2020

## KeeNotes

Time continues to pass and the days are becoming longer. It still rains in Arkansas. The weathermen continue to tell us “next week” will be better and the rains will stop. Every news report begins and ends with the Covid-19 virus and the numbers of deaths caused by it. Little mention is given of the vast majority of those who have recovered and are better. Yet, God continues to reign and the world continues to stand and a virus will not be what destroys the world, it will still be consumed by fire one day.

We are slowly trying to get back to some semblance of normal. We have announced plans to return to a revamped Bible class setting with only two “socially distanced” classes for the youngest ones and an auditorium class for everyone else which will begin at 9:30 a.m. next Lord’s Day. Martha Kee will teach those from 2 years old up to 1<sup>st</sup> graders in the classroom on the North end of the building where the ladies class commonly meets and Leah Brewer will be teaching in the large classroom at the South end where those from 2<sup>nd</sup> grade through 6<sup>th</sup> grade will meet. These classes will only last for about 20 minutes and then after a ten minute break we will begin our morning worship. Hope to see you next week beginning at 9:30 a.m. as we begin to “phase back into” our normal.

Jesus encourages his disciples saying, “Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye therefore wise as serpents and harmless as doves” (Matthew 10:16). It has been and will continue to be our practice to put God first in our lives and to never allow the world to place restrictions upon us which keep us from serving and obeying God. I am so very thankful to work with a church which has such a love for doing what is right from day to day and tries to put God first in our lives.

Having said that we also remind ourselves that plans we make today for “getting back to normal” may change depending on what happens over the coming weeks. There are still faces and brethren I long to see and cannot wait for all this threat to be behind us and our assemblies filled again with all my brethren young and old and everyone in between. Thanks for every effort “to walk humbly with thy God” (Micah 6:8). So glad to see you today! Let us all rejoice!

**Those Privileged To Serve**

May 31, 2020

**NUMBERS FOR THE WEEK**

May 24, 2020

**SUNDAY MORNING**

- Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
- Opening Prayer: TBA
- Closing Prayer: TBA
- Bible Reading: TBA
- Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

**SUNDAY EVENING**

- Song Leader: Scottie Blanchard
- Opening Prayer: TBA
- Closing Prayer: TBA
- Preacher: Terry Joe Kee

**LORD’S TABLE**

Presiding:  
TBA

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Jody Pickens

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

- Song Leader: TBA
- Opening Prayer: TBA
- Closing Prayer: TBA

**DEVOTIONAL SPEAKER**

TBA

- Sunday Bible Study
- Sunday AM Worship 106
- Sunday PM Worship 85
- Wednesday Bible Study 76
- Contribution \$6043

“He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?”

**Micah 6:8**