



# Lighthouse of Iowa

*Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ*

June 2019

## The biggest issue today for Christians is . . .

*by Jay Graham*

I was listening to an interview recently of a well-known evangelical preacher. He was asked the question— “What is the single biggest issue for Christians today?”

The clergyman looked very thoughtful as he looked into the camera and answered: “I believe there are really two issues that are the single biggest concerns for Christians today. They are Abortion and Gay Marriage.” My thought was that this man was considered a leader among the evangelical churches, and his opinion would certainly be heeded by his followers.

I could not disagree with him more.

Of course, the evangelical churches can do and say and think whatever they want. I am part of the Lord’s body that does not take instruction and advice from such men. As Christians, we heed the writings of the apostles and prophets in the Scriptures as our faith and practice.

To be sure, Satan would love for us to heed this man’s advice. Satan would desire we take our eyes off the Lord and what He desires of us and focus on such distractions.

I understand that the issues the preacher raises are concerning and troubling. But are they truly the most important issues for the Lord’s people to be focused on? I contend strongly that they are not the biggest issues for Christians today. As a matter of fact, I contend that when our focus is on such earthly concerns, we will be distracted from what the Lord desires we focus upon.

Now, to be clear, we have a right to speak against such evils. We can vote as citizens of this great country in addition to using other rights we have as

Americans to speak out against evil. But are these and other social evils to be our biggest concerns?

The question at the beginning of this article can be answered in many different ways, but all the ways presented in the Word must focus on the most important concerns for Christians.

For instance, there are the two greatest commandments as taught by Jesus in Mark 12:30-31. We are told to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength. We are told to love our neighbors as ourselves. Am I doing this the way God requires? As individual Christians, are we loving God first and our neighbors second? This should be a most important issue for me.

Jesus could have mentioned a number of evils that existed in both Roman and Jewish society at that time. There was infanticide, which included the practice of leaving babies who were unwanted, to die in the elements. Jesus could have told us to start political petitions to demand that prayers begin at every Roman Senate meeting. He could have demanded the Romans depart from the Jewish land. He could have urged His followers to do any number of political priorities.

But what did He teach? He taught us to love and pray for our enemies. He taught His followers to serve one another. He taught us to not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will take care of itself. He taught us to seek first the kingdom of God. In my estimation these are among the biggest issues for Christians.

If I were to give an answer to the question: “What is the single biggest issue for Christians today?” I would say, consider the apostle Paul’s admonition in 2 Corinthians 13:5-6 5 “Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Do you

not know yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you? — unless indeed you are disqualified. But I trust that you will know that we are not disqualified.”

Now THAT may be the single biggest issue for Christians in this 21<sup>st</sup> century!

Satan would prefer we concentrate on other issues rather the ones that concern our souls. He is the master of distractions! He certainly had a role in Israel, as they awaited Moses to come down from the Mountain. They should have been preparing themselves by prayer and meditation as they were getting ready to receive the Words of the Lord. Instead they were concentrating on other things, and we know what those things were.

As they sent the twelve spies into Canaan, rather than thinking on and being thankful for the Land the Lord was giving them, ten of the spies were concentrating on the giants who were there rather than the blessings from the Lord. And the majority of Israel agreed with them! So much that they wanted to put Joshua and Caleb to death! Once again Satan distracted the Lord’s people.

Time and again the Lord’s people allowed themselves to become distracted and concentrate on things that were not as important. Men and women such as David, Solomon, Jonah, Peter, Ananias and Sapphira, etc. Churches such as Corinth, Ephesus, Sardis, Laodicea concentrated on the wrong things. In all of these cases if they did not repent and turn their attention to godly priorities, they would have lost their souls.

Let us, as the Lord’s people, not be distracted. Yes, there is much evil in this wicked and adulterous

generation. But if we spend our time concentrating on society’s evils, it can be disheartening and discouraging. Worst of all, we will be distracted from what truly counts toward our salvation.

So let us rather keep our focus on the Lord and His will for our individual lives. Let us examine our own lives so that we will not be disqualified in that Great Day.

Hebrews 12:1-3 1 *“Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*

## Chariton

**Meeting times:** Sundays: 10:00 a.m. (no evening services)

**Location:** 15<sup>th</sup> & Roland, Chariton, Iowa

**For information call:** Albert Schreck (641) 535-2381 or Brian Schreck (641) 535-2931

- Quiet month in Chariton.



### June Birthdays

None

### June Anniversaries

None

## Dean Avenue

**Meeting times:** Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

**Last Sunday of the month:** A social after morning services meeting back at 1 pm instead of 6 pm.

**Location:** 2907 Dean Ave., Des Moines, Iowa / P.O. Box 57398, Pleasant Hill, IA 50327

**For information call:** John McNeece (515) 263-9428

### **Peter Hawthorne passed away on May 24th.**

He was residing at Trinity Place in Luther Park. He has been bed fast for years following a stroke. We will miss him.

- Roberta Milinski traveled to Norway, Denmark and Sweden.
- Dillion Dobberke was married and Brett Dobberke has graduated from North High School. Both young men are sons of Mary Dobberke and grandsons of Yvonne Coe.
- Shawn Head was back visiting for a week.
- Don James has had his knee replacement and is doing his rehab.
- Earl Allen is continuing to have problems with erratic blood sugars since he took immunotherapy for cancer. He is at home at Valley View Assisted Living with home care and care from his children.

- Shirley McNeece's brother-in-law, Komer Johnson, passed away after open heart surgery.
- Others ill this month: Glenn Meacham, Pam Climpson, Karma Sharp and Risa Schamel.

**Visitors:** Tom Warren, Bill, Bryan, Max and Tally Charlier, Nancy and Zoey Evans, Venita James, Valerie Hawthorne, and Aiden and Paxon Boozell.



### **June Birthdays**

- ★ 18 John Chapman
- ★ 23 Janice Sellers
- ★ 29 Don James

### **June Anniversaries**

- ★ 5 Matt & Mary Dobberke
- ★ 29 Ron & Karma Sharp

## Fairview

**Meeting times:** Sundays: 10:00 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** 1001 S. 22<sup>nd</sup> St, Clarinda, Iowa 51632

**For information call:** Richard Negley (712)542-3728 or Marvin Negley (712)542-2792

- Visitor this month: Marianna Hardin from Paragould, AR
- Coming especially for Memorial Day and visiting his in-laws (Jack & Bobbi Swisher) was Rob Ritson from, Burlington, IA and Mary Parrot and granddaughter Aubrey from Savannah, MO.
- We enjoyed having John Lee with us the w/e of May 18th and 19th.



### **June Birthdays**

- ★ 22 Janet Negley
- ★ 27 Neil McCoy

### **June Anniversary**

- None in June

## Martensdale

**Meeting Times:** Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

**1st & 3rd Sundays of the month:** Basket dinner after morning service meeting back at 1 pm instead of 6 pm.

**Location:** 10985 44th Lane, Prole, Iowa (1.5 miles east of Martensdale, IA on Hwy. 92)

**For information call:** Duane Proudfit (515) 961-4470 or Mike Penick (515) 681-0279

- Several of us attended a baby shower for Courtney Teghtmeyer May 4.
- Fred and Marlene Bown will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on June 12. If you would like to send them a card their address is 10958 44th Lane Prole, IA 50229.
- Zach Wheeler started a new job at Excell Marketing in Des Moines and enjoys his new hours no longer working a night shift.
- Mike Divis had surgery to help improve his vision.
- Tom and Dianne Collier traveled to Helena, Montana for the wedding of their youngest daughter.
- Marta Weeks traveled to Carbondale, Illinois, to visit her son Garret.
- Wendy Hounsom continues to have health problems and is awaiting test results to try to determine the source of some pain she is having. Please continue to pray for Wendy.

- Mary Proudfit is being treated for a digestive issue and seems to be doing a little better. Please continue to pray for Mary.
- Visitors this month have been: Shannon Cobb; Stephanie Stephens and kids; Zach and Cassie Crane and kids; Randy and Laura Teghtmeyer and Judy; Jordan Bown.



### June Birthdays

- ★ 4 Kyle Bown
- ★ 4 Tracy Penick
- ★ 10 Phyllis Bown
- ★ 12 Fred Bown

### June Anniversaries

- ★ 12 Fred and Marlene Bown 1959
- ★ 13 Zach and Jenna Wheeler 2009

## Pleasant Hill

**Meeting Times:** Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.

**Sunday:** Potluck with afternoon service held every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month)

**Location:** 5091 E. University, Pleasant Hill, Iowa

**Website:** [pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org](http://pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org)

**For information call:** Lowell Hermon (515) 989-0727, Mike Warner (515) 967-4529

- Congratulations to Carly Felice! She completed her English degree from UNI in 3 years!
- Congratulations also to Carson George who graduated from Southeast Polk High School!

- Brandon Ingle ships out on May 29th heading for Panama for one month to attend leadership training with the U.S. Army.
- Sophia George's tests for Crohn's came back negative. Doctor are continuing to monitor her GI tract to see if additional testing is needed.

- Keith Price was put into the hospital; he has rhinovirus.
- Betty Warren is feeling better, but her hip hurts when she walks.
- Marc and Ginger Hermon spent Memorial Day weekend in Colorado for Kayley’s bridal shower and wedding planning. Nick Hermon and Kayley Zimmerman’s wedding is scheduled for August 10, 2019 in Colorado.
- A bridal shower will be hosted for Kayley Zimmerman on June 22 at 10 a.m. at the Pleasant Hill church building. Please RSVP to Madison Hermon.

**Evangelist Visit**

Save the Date! VBS with John Lee will be the week of June 16. Theme is, “*Who is my neighbor.*” Adults will study church government. Children's classes start at Toddler, ages 3-4, through 6th grade.



**June Birthdays**

- ★ 6 Alex Needham
- ★ 7 Ryleigh Wood
- ★ 15 Eden Brady
- ★ 19 Joel Needham
- ★ 20 Whitney Thorson
- ★ 23 Dan Pritchard
- ★ 24 Jamie Ingle
- ★ 27 Dean Thorson
- ★ 28 Mary Gearhart
- ★ 29 Sophia George
- ★ 30 Randy Spinney

**June Anniversaries**

- ★ 2 Don & Wanda Burkman
- ★ 6 Kevin & Denise Waits
- ★ 9 Bud & Mary Alice Fillman

---

# Vandalia

**Meeting Times:** Sundays: 9:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:30 p.m.

**Location:** 2.5 miles east of Runnells, Iowa on F70, then 1 mile north on 131st St.

**Website:** vandaliacoc.com

**For information call:** Greg Ingle (515) 994-2824 or Charles Ingle (515) 966-2537

- Our “world travelers” were Drew Cummings, who spent some time in Ireland; Morgan Cummings who visited in London; and Lynnette Dowdy who traveled with her daughter Dawn Mikus and family to London.
- Jason and Staci Miller and children visited family in Carrollton, MO.
- We sang with the residents of Accura Health Center in Newton and helped Dorothy Van Maanen celebrated her birthday.
- Joy Cummings underwent surgery and will soon be home recuperating.
- Our visitors were: Roger Elam, Valerie Burkman, Mary Ann Homan, and Bobbi Jo Dilley.

- Our annual meeting will be June 8th & 9th. We look forward to seeing you there.



**June Birthdays**

- ★ 29 Lori Cole
- ★ 29 Destiney Kingery
- ★ 29 Charles & Angela Ingle

**June Anniversaries**

- ★ 1 Doug & Lisa Fiorentin
- ★ 2 Michael & Joy Cummings

# Charles Fry beginning a study on the book of Acts on VBR

Published on Facebook Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

Contact Dwain Stoops with questions

VBR: Bible Study Classroom

VBR: Bible Study Classroom  
Secret group

About  
Discussion  
Chats  
Announcements  
Members  
Events  
Videos

**VBR C**  
**Bible Study Classroom**  
Proverbs 9:9  
VBR Bible Study Ministries © 2018

Dwain Stoops ▸ VBR: Bible Study Classroom  
Yesterday at 4:00 AM · 📺

Video #1: Intro & Acts 1:1-5

**Series: VBR-05 (Part I)**  
**Book of Acts (Chapters 1-7)**  
**The New Beginning:**  
**“The church in Jerusalem”**  
**Instructor: Charles Fry**

👍❤️ John Morris, Glen R Woody and 25 others 9 Comments

👍 Like    💬 Comment

Search    Thomas    Home    Find Friends

The Book of Acts

~ A brief account of the 1st 30 years of the church and the spread of the Christian faith.

\* 66 books

\* Old Testament (39 books)

\* New Testament (27 books)

- Focused on work of Jesus and His church

Dwain Stoops

👍❤️ 27 9 Comments