



Lighthouse of Iowa

Keeping in touch with Iowa's Churches of Christ

February 2022

Live like you were dying

by Jay Graham

*He said, "I went skydiving.
I went rocky mountain climbing.
I went two point seven seconds on a bull named
"Fu Man Chu".
And I loved deeper. And I spoke sweeter.
And I gave forgiveness I'd been denying'
"And he said: "Someday I hope you get the chance.
To live like you were dying"*

You may recognize the words of the song entitled, "Live like you were dying", as written by Tim McGraw. In the song the singer speaks to a man who had discovered he had cancer and was dying.

The man told him how, now that he knew he was dying, possibly soon, he changed his lifestyle. He began doing things that he had always wanted to do. Things he had never done for various seasons. So, he began to live like he knew he was going to die, possibly sooner rather than later.

The quote above is what he did as a result.

See life differently

Because of his newfound knowledge, he felt his life was more fulfilled. He was motivated to do what he had always wanted to do, and he was much more content than before he came across this diagnosis, because he was now finally doing the things he had always wanted to do.

Now, take note of the verse at the beginning of this article. This teaches us that we are all going to die, someday. There is no arguing the matter. No amount of medication or machines or other technology will keep us from dying. This is a great truth the Scriptures teach us.

We can see this from the beginning of the Scriptures, even in the first few chapters. Adam & Eve chose to sin, and as a result, sin and death entered the world. There is no escaping

death in this life. It has been called a predator that continues to chase us, and no matter what we do, it will find and overtake us in the end.

Prepare for the second life

Why is this important? Because God in His Divine Wisdom wants all of mankind to know what is happening. He wants us to be prepared for what will inevitably find us, Death. *"It has been appointed for men to die once, but after this the Judgment."*

We can be prepared for that inevitable event.

We prepare ourselves by living our lives as God requires of us. This begins when we first give our lives to Him in faith and obedience. And it continues throughout our lives as we endeavor to live in His Righteousness and Holiness. This is supposed to last a lifetime!

The Lord wants us to live our lives knowing we will die eventually, and that cannot be avoided. But we can be ready for this eventuality, by living by His standards. Such a lifestyle will prepare us for that Day when we stand before the Lord, our Great Judge.

On that Day we will give account of our lives. It teaches in Revelation 20:12:

"And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books."

The unknown but inevitable day

Now to be clear, I am not saying we need to ride a bull named "Fu-Man-Chu" as the man in the song did. But we do need to live our lives with the idea that we know we are dying. And we have no

idea what day that will be. It is for this reason among others that we do NOT necessarily know the day nor the hour. This is to encourage us to live in His Righteous Ways beginning today from now on!

What will be the end result? Of course, if we remain faithful until death, we will receive a Crown of Life from our Creator and our Judge.

However, we also, I believe, will be more content and fulfilled with our lives. We will have served the purpose of our creation. We would have glorified our God, for this is why we are here on this earth in the first place.

When we have achieved this purpose of our creation, to live to His glory, our lives will be

totally fulfilled and accomplished. There is hope in Jesus' words in John 11:25 Jesus said to her,

"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.

One final thing that I like in this song is how the man who knew he was dying "loved deeper, spoke sweeter and gave forgiveness", perhaps because he knew he was going to meet his God.

Having this knowledge within us will encourage us to do the same. May we all live like we are dying!



Chariton

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

Location: Call for information.

For information call: Albert Schreck (641) 535-2381 or Brian Schreck (641) 203-2137

- **Norm Riekens grandson**, Taylor Faulkner, passed away on Dec. 6. Our condolences go out to him.



February Birthdays

- None

February Anniversaries

- None

Dean Avenue

Meeting times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m.

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

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

- Dave and Joyce Ingle worshipped with us and gave an edifying lesson on Thanksgiving.
- Mary Lou Allen is now under hospice care. She may have had a small stroke. She isn't talking and has her eyes shut most of the time. She can hear and responds some to her family.
- **Visitors this month were:** Elsie Chapman, Brita, Charlie & Maverick Head

February Birthdays:

- ☆ 08 Johnie McNeece
- ☆ 16 Bill McNeece
- ☆ 25 Frances Hawthorne

February Anniversaries: None

Fairview

Meeting times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
Location: 1001 S. 22nd St, Clarinda, Iowa 51632
For information call: Richard Negley (712)542-3728 or Marvin Negley (712)542-2792

- “January was a very quiet month.”

February Birthdays

- None None
-

February Anniversary

- None

Martensdale

Meeting Times: Sundays: 10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 7:00 p.m.
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

- Mike and Tracy were on a cruise.
- Cindy Stanly worshipped while staying with Dick and Phyllis Bown to help during Phyllis’ chemo treatments.
- Phyllis is having trouble eating because of nausea from chemo treatments. Please keep her and Dick in your prayers. Phyllis is also having painful issues with her sciatic nerve.
- We cancelled services several times due to most members having covid or colds. But everyone is recovering nicely!
- Rodney and Alena travelled to Florida.
- Drew and Courtney went on a Disney cruise.

February Birthdays

- ☆ 07 – Brenna Ingle ❤️
- ☆ 09 – Keturah Ingle ❤️

February Anniversaries

- ☆ 09 – Allen & Teresa Bown (1985)
- ☆ 20 – Bill & Wendy Housom (1996)

Pleasant Hill

Meeting Times: Sundays: 9:30 a.m. ♦ Wednesdays: 6:30 p.m.
Location: 5091 E. University, Pleasant Hill, Iowa
Website: pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org
Contacts: Mike Warner 515-967-4529 / Marty Williamson 515-556-2394 / Marc Hermon 515- 554-3567

- **Our beloved brother, Thomas Brady, went to be with the Lord Wednesday, January 5.** He fought the good fight and kept the faith! May it give us great joy and hope to think of Tom recongregating

with the saints who are waiting on the other side of that shadowy veil. "They're going to sound a lot better with that rejuvenated baritone voice!" – Son, Jason. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

- **We are very sad to report that Karla Fetter's daughter, April Betsworth, passed away Tuesday, January 11.** "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted." Matt 5:4
- **Mary Gearhart's husband of 60 years, Ronnie, passed away Monday, Jan 24.** You may read his obituary online. Service will be Saturday, Feb. 12 @ 11 a.m. "The Lord is close to the brokenhearted." Ps 34:18.
- Congratulations, **Rylee Ingle!** Rylee is graduating early from Bondurant-Farrar high school. She will participate at commencement this spring.
- **Taylor Ingle** wore a cast on her foot for 3 weeks to resolve growth plate concerns.
- **Marilyn McClurg** has been dealing with health concerns this month.
- **Betty Warren** has been having leg pain & swelling this month.
- **Randy Ingle** was taken by ambulance on Tuesday for another episode of Anaphylaxis shock. Doctors are unsure what is triggering these episodes. Randy will not be driving for AE Dairy while he is under medial observation.
- **Kelly George**, Lord willing, is scheduled for bypass surgery on Tuesday, February 1, Let's petition for doctor's wisdom during this important surgery. As well, for no clotting and surgery will improve blood flow back to his foot.
- **Nora Lee Ingle, Suzanne Harvey, Dave Ingle and Cindy Morris** could use the kingdom's encouragement and prayers. Nora Lee's son, Ned, has been given approximately 2 months to live. Pray for God's will to be carried out in Ned's life + Nora Lee and family to be strengthened and comforted.
- **Shirley Warner** had cataract eye surgery and recovered well.
- **Steve Thompson** has been suffering with back pain. Let's cheer him with phone calls or cards.
- **Kayley Zimmerman** is blessed with Baby HERmon! Pray for a healthy pregnancy & safe delivery. Kayley is due in in mid-June.
- **Many of our members have been ill this month:** Randy, Theresa and Kinnick Ingle, Niko Felice, Rylee Ingle, Ayden Twaddell, Ryan Zinnel, Kayley + Nick Hermon, Julene Pappan, Carly + Danie Suhrl, Kelly + Allison George, Jason + Theresa Brady, Bruce +

Suzanne Harvey, Shea + Gabby Hermon, Lowell Hermon, Dave + Joyce Ingle, Mike Warner, Thorson, Wood + Pritchard families.

- **We have been thankful to have the following visitors worship with us this past month:** Chelsea & Maddox Boyd, Nathan & Kathleen Williamson (Smart Road congregation), Medina Jusufovic, Diamond & Dominique Blackman
- **Marje Turnquist and Larry + Bev Brady** are enjoying warm weather in Florida this month.
- **Praise God! 17 Bible Students attended this month's ITBS** at the Klein home. Everyone enjoyed a sledding party, chili, fellowship, and a lesson on Building a Spiritual House.



February Birthdays

- ☆ 2/4 – Joyce Jones
- ☆ 2/5 – Max Flickinger
- ☆ 2/6 – Marc Hermon
- ☆ 2/10 – Layla Laymon
- ☆ 2/14 – Audra Needham
- ☆ 2/23 – Marje Turnquist

February Anniversaries

- ☆ 2/7 – JC & Melanie Castro

Vandalia

Meeting Times: Sunday: 9:45 a.m. and Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

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

For information call: Greg Ingle (515) 994-2824 or Charles Ingle (515) 238-3316

Website: <https://vandaliacoc.com>

- **Joy and Michael Cummings and family want to thank everyone** for all the thoughts and prayers as Joy is going through her chemo treatments---so very much appreciated. God is good!
- Trent and Leah Fiorentin and family have moved to a house in Pleasantville.
- Lynnette Dowdy visited family in the Kansas City area.
- Morgan Burkman started a new job as a floral manager at the Hy-Vee in Oskaloosa.
- We had a card shower for Walter Daugherty who is turning 98 years young on Feb. 2. Walter lives in the Altoona Nursing Home and Rehab Center.
- **Visitors this month were:** Chelsie Rankin and Sue Schreck.



February Birthdays

- ☆ 2 Walter Daugherty
- ☆ 2 Reuben Heartsill
- ☆ 8 Melda Ingle
- ☆ 9 Bruce Fiorentin
- ☆ 14 Rachael Henle
- ☆ 16 Derek Ingle
- ☆ 20 James Dowdy
- ☆ 21 Laura Dowdy
- ☆ 26 Amy Ingle
- ☆ 27 Shelby Ingle
- ☆ 28 Briana Heartsill

February Anniversaries

- ☆ 17 Brett & Lori Cole

Copies of the *Lighthouse of Iowa* can be found at the following two Church websites:

Vandalia Church of Christ: <https://vandaliacoc.com/lighthouse-of-iowa.html>

Pleasant Hill Church of Christ: <http://www.pleasanthillchurchofchrist.org> - Lighthouse of Iowa

The days of our years are threescore years and ten;

and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years,

yet is their strength labour and sorrow;

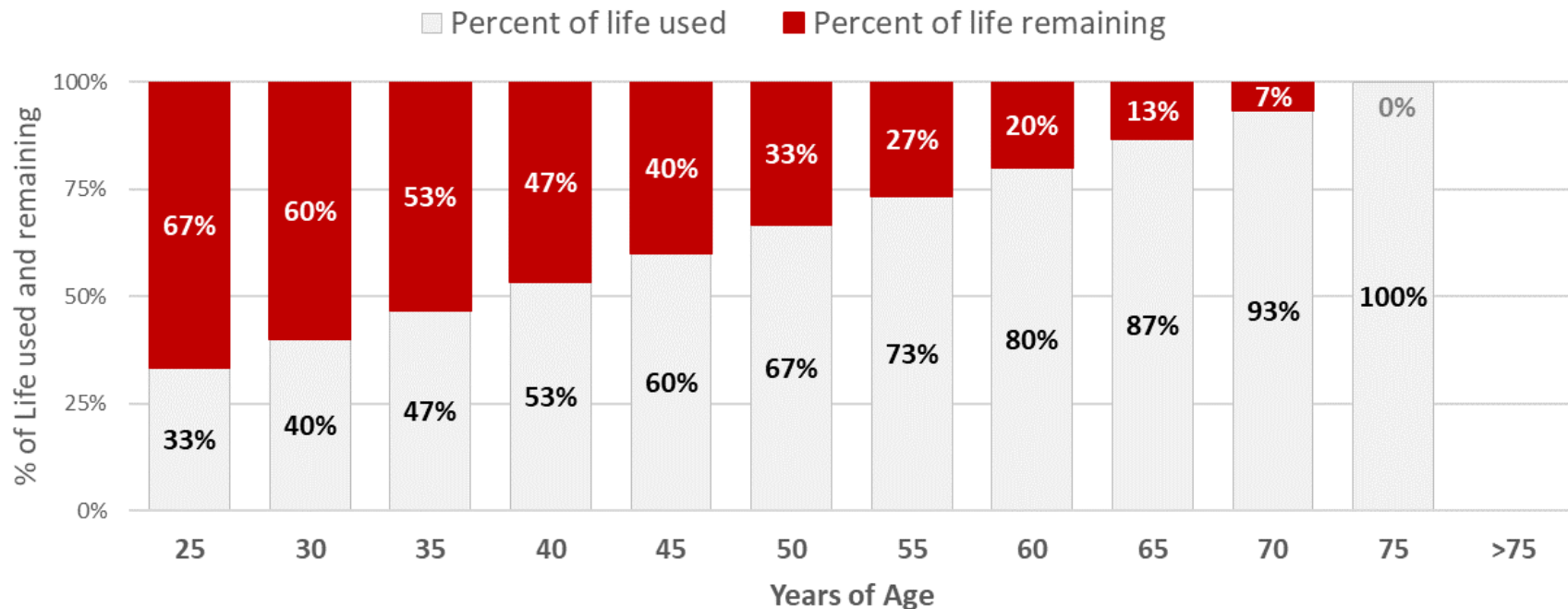
for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

*So teach us to number our days,
that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.*

~ Psalms 90:10 & 12

% of Life used and remaining

ASSUMPTION: Average (three score years and ten + four score years) = 75 Years



Prepare to meet your God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

Knowing in yourselves that ye have in Heaven a better and an enduring substance.

Have a desire to depart this world, and to be with Christ. For that is far better!