fort News Disaster Relie

"For I was hungry and you gave me food." (Matt/25:35)

Vol. 3 Issue 10

Quarterly Newsletter of the Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, Inc. Established 1991 October 2021

CALIFORNIA EXPERIENCES 2nd MOST DESTRUCTIVE WILDFIRE IN CALIFORNIA HISTORY – 2021 DIXIE FIRE

JULY 2021 – HOTTEST MONTH IN U.S. HISTORY

NOAA REPORTS FEWER HURRICANES THROUGH END OF SEPTEMBER 2021 THAN IN RECENT YEARS

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Mike Lewis

This quarter began with us monitoring the Dixie wildfire in California which began July 13th. Dale Linge, our Associate Director of California, had made calls to congregations in the area. Each time we got an update, the fire was not contained enough for the state to open area roads, so we could not get the supplies into the area, plus homeowners were still evacuated and not being allowed back in to check their property. By the end of September, the Dixie fire had burned 963,309 acres, and was 94% contained. The first shipment for those affected by

the Dixie fire was shipped September 16th. We sent a trailer of supplies to the Chester Church of Christ in Chester, CA

Another wildfire in California began a month after the Dixie fire started, and was named the By the end of Caldor Fire. September, 221,775 acres of forest had burned and it was 83% contained. We had requests for shipments to the Caldor fire on September 6th because it was contained much quicker than the Dixie fire that had started a month earlier. The South Lake Tahoe Church of Christ in Lake Tahoe, CA and the Placerville Church in Placerville received trailers of supplies to help their communities.

Wildfires are probably the most difficult (continued on p.2)

A FAITHFUL SERVANT HAS GONE TO BE WITH HIS MAKER

On October 13th a good friend and longtime driver for CCDRE, **Charlie Markus**, passed away. **Charlie** lived in Burns, TN. He leaves his wife, Linda, a grown son and two daughters, and 5 granddaughters along with many other family members.



Charlie Markus

Charlie drove for CCDRE for 14 years, had driven for Yellow Freight, and also for several country music performers while they were on tour. He will be greatly missed. •

FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(continued from page 1)



Mike Lewis Executive Director

when it comes to helping those affected. It can be weeks or months before the firefighters can finally contain these fires. Even with all of the acres of forest burning, often there is not a heavy concentration of homes in one particular area, and even if there are, those families have been told to leave the area, so we don't know where the people went, and they will be gone from the area until the evacuation orders are lifted. Safety is a

175 Fires in California forests in 2021 through the end of September.

major concern for all. We must be sure we are sending the supplies to an area that is not or will not be in the path of the fire so workers and those needing help can get in and out \rightarrow safely, and to make sure the supplies will be in a safe location until they can be distributed.

In Middle Tennesse, the weekend of August 20 and 21, the counties of Dickson, Houston and Humhreys received over 10" of rain. McEwen, TN reported 17 inches of rain, breaking the previous 24 hour record of 13.6". Rain was falling at a rate of 3-4" an hour for 3 hours! The rain primarily fell in the McEwen area, and flowed to Waverly which has a much lower elevation. Pictures were circulating on the internet of the Pineville Church of Christ showing water up to the eaves of the roof. Many areas were without power and clean water, plus communications were down. Twenty people lost their lives, including several infants.



Waverly residents were reporting a sudden surge of water through their community. Several areas of raised railroad track in the area was acting as a levee, and as the excess rain built up, the pressure washed away the earthen dam from underneath the tracks, causing a wall of water rushing through the area. The water was so fast, and so deep that many had no time to get to higher round.

Monday morning, August 22, a shipment of supplies was unloaded at the Waverly Church of Christ, and Tuesday morning supplies were delivered at the McEwen Church of Christ \rightarrow and at the Walnut Street Church of Christ in Dickson.



On August 17th and 18th the remnants of Tropical Storm Fred dropped nearly a foot of rain in some areas of Western North Carolina after it swept across the Florida panhandle on August 18th. The heaviest rain was in Haywood County. The East Fork of the Pigeon River in Haywood County, above Canton, reached a new record high of over 16 feet. Flood stage is 12 ft. The storm affected a total of 8 counties. Utility companies were busy in North Carolina restoring power. It took sometime for the river to recede, and on August 24 the first truckload of supplies was requested for delivery at the Central Haywood Church in Clyde to help the Canton, Clyde, and Cruco, NC communities. A second shipment of supplies was delivered to their church building on August 28th.

On August 29th, the center of the eye of Hurricane Ida crossed through Port Fourchon, Louisiana. causing a lot of destruction to the city of Grand Isle, about 100 miles south of New Orleans with sustained winds of 150mph, categorized as a class 4 hurricane. It had intensified in strength the previous 24 hours from 85mph winds! It is reported as the $\rightarrow \rightarrow$

(continued on page 4)

CCDRE REPRESENTATIVES

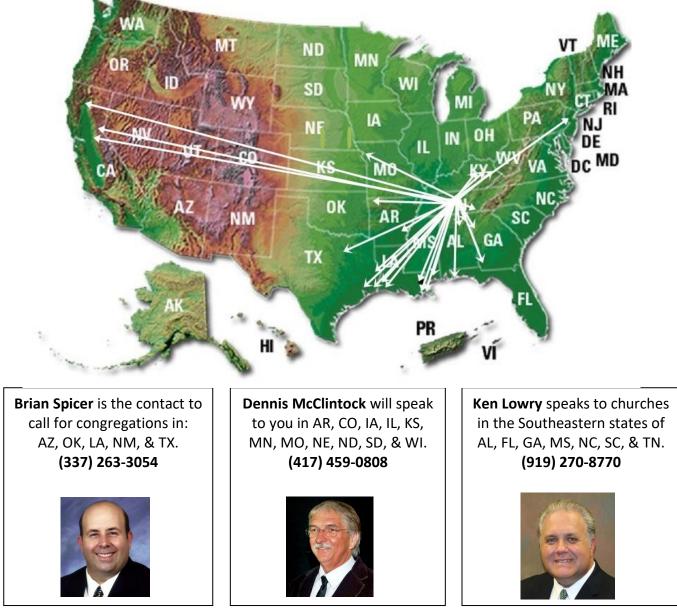
In the Western states, call **Dale Linge**. He speaks to congregations in CA, ID, MT, NV, OR, UT, & WA, WY (509) 670-2568



If you would like a representative of *Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, Inc.* to explain how your congregation can help after a major disaster, or if your congregation is in an area hit by a major disaster and you're wanting to help your community, have your leadership contact the person responsible for your state. They look forward to talking to you more. Call them direct or call us toll free -1.888.541.2848 Dwane Casteel speaks in the Northeastern states of CT, DE, IN, KY, MA, MD, ME, MI, NH, NJ, NY, OH, PA, RI, VA, VT, & WV, and DC. (304) 610-4478



Map Showing Shipment Locations for Disasters through September 30, 2021



FROM THE DESK OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

(continued from page 2)

fifth strongest hurricane making landfall in the continental U.S tying with Hurricane Laura that hit in 2020 as the strongest hurricane making landfall in Louisiana. Besides heavy damage in New Orleans, Hurricane Ida caused widespread damage across the Mid-Atlanta and Northeast U.S.

The following Louisiana churches served as receiving and distribution centers for supplies to help those affected by Hurricane Ida and Zeta:

Chalmette, LA Gibson Church of Christ -Gibson. LA Pear Ridge Church of Christ -Hammond. LA Hickory Knoll Church of Christ Harahan. LA La Place Church of Christ -La Place, LA Railroad Ave. Church of Christ -Morgan city, LA DeGaulle Church of Christ -New Orleans, LA Luisa Street Church of Christ New Orleans, LA NOLA East Church of Christ -New Orleans, LA South Terrebonne Ch of Christ -Montegut, LA

Zachary, LA

The N 32nd St Church in Baton Rouge had a distribution center in Vacherie, LA.

The Elysian Fields Church in New Orleans helped with a distribution center in Jean LaFitte,LA.

Nineteen 53' trailers full of supplies were provided to LA through the end of September, and we will be helping in that

area for sometime.

In the Northeast, a shipment of supplies was requested for the Clinton Avenue Church of Christ in Trenton, New Jersey after the remnant of Hurricane Ida passed through their community. •



"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the sons of God" - Jesus, (Matt. 5:9)

DON'T LET YOUR FAITH COLLAPSE

It was the night of **Jesus**' betrayal, and He was on the threshold of fulfilling the mission for which He had come. After earlier in the evening, having instituted the Lord's Supper, He took **Peter**, **James** and **John** with Him to Gethsemane where He went a short distance away where he prayed

intensely to the **Father.** He knew what was in store for Him. After all, He had helped plan the program, but that didn't make it any less painful.

Each time **Jesus** returned to the disciples, He found them sleeping. The long day for **Peter**, **James** and **John** must have made them indifferent not only to the needs of **Jesus** at that moment, but their need of strength and watchfulness for the impending temptation that all would face. The disciples needed to learn that spiritual victory goes to those who are in prayer and depend on **God**, and that self-confidence and spiritual unpreparedness lead to spiritual disaster.

As the evening progressed, the disciples recognized that **Jesus** would not resist arrest, and they might be arrested also, so their faith collapsed and they all forsook Him and fled.

Jesus doesn't promise this life to be a rose garden – quite the contrary – but whatever we are dealt in life, let's pray that our faith will never collapse even when things seem the darkest. Trials, heartaches, persecution, disappointments are all part of **God**'s "Perfecting" process.

Job experienced untold suffering and prayed to die. He complained and persevered but his faith did not collapse. (Job 7:7)

TROPICAL STORM FRED IMPACTS WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

By Ken Lowry –Assoc Director of SE

Although 600 miles inland, the small mountain communities of Havward County, North Carolina were severely impacted by Tropical Storm Fred! After hitting the Florida panhandle on Monday, August 16, 2021, Fred pushed northward and dumped incredible amounts of rain. When the tropical system reached the NC mountains, pounding rains filled Pigeon River as it surged through the communities of Clyde, Cruso and Canton. Water was rising at the rate of 1 foot every half hour as rainfall amounts reached up to 11 inches over a three day period. Water levels for the Pigeon River were the highest ever recorded in 60 years of data collection. Flooding was devastating and claimed the lives of six people. Over 200 structures were destroyed in Cruso alone with more than 500 families displaced across the county. Damages exceeded \$3 million! Government leaders exclaimed that Haywood County needed "all the help it can get!"

In Clyde, NC, the Central Haywood Church of Christ responded by accepting multiple truckloads of supplies from CCDRE. In a mountainous setting, it was challenging to deliver and set up for distribution, but this congregation sprang into action, creatively unloading and distributing. They loaded trucks and trailers and went into the more remote areas heavily damaged by the flood-ing. Neighbors that lived \rightarrow

near the church building volunteered to assist in unloading the supplies. Not only did the local congregation have an impact on their neighbors, but as they were working, a man walking by asked what was happening. When members explained, he assist volunteered to and continued working for a couple of days. The man began asking Biblical questions and after studying some more, he was baptized! The impact of the efforts from this congregation cannot be measured. Seeds have been planted in the hundreds of families that were assisted with supplies. God has already given the increase in at least one soul that was baptized for remission of his sins. Please pray that these and other similar efforts continue to find fertile soil.

FLOOD WATERS SWEEP THROUGH TENNESSEE COMMUNITIES

Rain that started falling on the morning of August 21, 2021, was described as "torrential!" \rightarrow



In the western section of middle Tennessee, Humphreys, Houston, Dickson and Hickman counties were inundated with up to 17" of rain in a matter of hours. The rain was heaviest just outside the city of McEwen, and the water built into a wall sweeping across rural areas and through towns destroying homes, roads, cellphone towers, telephone poles and leaving families stunned. It continued to the city of Waverly where 19 of the 20 fatalities were victims to the unexpected, fast-rising water. Many described the water as a "tidal wave" as it quickly went from ankle deep to more than 20 feet high in places. In Waverly, Trace Creek that meanders through town became a raging and deathly menace as it destroyed lives, buildings, and infrastructure.

In response to the devastating storm, several Church of Christ congregations sprang into action, contacting CCDRE for assistance and requesting supplies for those impacted. Four truckloads of supplies from CCDRE were sent to requesting congregations. The McEwen Church of Christ quickly turned their building into a relief center, distributing

plies and providing essenfor victims. In Dickson, the nut St. Church of Christ aded trucks of supplies to distribute locally and assist r smaller congregations that e in need but unable to accept blies. The Church of Christ Waverly became a major f center for the entire munity. In addition to sups from CCDRE, Waverly received contributions in merchandise and financial support from congregations across \rightarrow (continued on page 6)

FLOOD WATERS...

By Ken Lowry (continued from page 5)

the county. The American Red Cross used the church building as a relief center and housed many individuals that had lost their homes. FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) used the Waverly building to register those who needed federal aid and the local health department provided vaccinations for tetanus and hepatitis. These and other area congregations were providing physical and spiritual assistance for those in need. (Gal. 6:9-10)

As time has progressed, the slow and horrible process of cleanup has continued in these communities. In Waverly, the congregation has continued to assist those who lost everything in the raging waters. As people have found new places to live or their repaired homes. the congregation has worked with CCDRE and other organizations to provide clean beds, furniture, and new appliances to those eligible who have no other means of replacing them. The from the Waverly elders congregation have diligently followed through with families, encouraging them and reaching out to meet their spiritual needs as well as their physical needs. Although the storm was unexpected and brought quick devastation to thousands, it was an opportunity that the Lord's church seized to demonstrate their Christianity. God bless all of those who assisted during this disaster and continue to provide support for all those affected. •

Galatians 6:6-10) NKJV

"Let him who is taught the word share in all good things with him who teaches.

"Do not be deceived; God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit, will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."

- Apostle **Paul** instructs the Galatians

FIGHT DISCOURAGEMENT

"... consider Him (Jesus) who endured such hostility from sinners against himself, lest you become weary and discouraged in your souls." (Hebrews 12:3) NKJV

- The writer encourages the vacillating Hebrews to stand firm in their faith in **Christ.** Believers' pressures, exhaustion, and persecutions are as nothing compared to Christ's.

ABIDE BY SPEED LIMITS

(First appearing in the April 2009 Newsletter)

I was cruising along on the interstate on a 200 mile trip. The day was beautiful, and I was singing,

 "Oh, what a beautiful morning. Oh, what a beautiful day, everything's going my way."
□

It seemed like a good time to pass a long stream of "slow poking" vehicles, so I just added a little weight to the accelerator without glancing at the speedometer. Big mistake! About the time I had passed the long line of cars and trucks, what would appear sitting obscurely out there in a field but one of the state's finest! I glanced at the speedometer, but it was too late.

In my rear view mirror I could see those blue flashing lights coming after me, the "hawk" moving from his "nest" to pounce on the poor little innocent (?) victim.

As soon as I got around a big truck I pulled off the road and pulled out my drivers license. While the officer was giving me a good talking, I was trying to think of some way I could get out of this mess without getting a ticket. So I agreed with everything he said. I *thought* maybe by apologizing, pleading guilty, being kind, bragging on him for being such a good officer, that might work. It didn't!

I meekly pulled back on the highway. Now all the cars and trucks I had passed were in front of me again.

I thought about Paul's words to the Romans, "All things work together for good to those who love the Lord." I also thought about the several ways I could spend \$189.00 rather than adding to the state's coffers.

Paul's words to the Thessalonians came to my mind, "In all things give thanks for this is the will of **God** in **Christ Jesus** for you." Well, I am trying.

God uses various and sundry ways to take care of His children, but I wish He had chosen a less expensive way this time.

Drive carefully, stay alert, drive defensively, and abide by the speed limits.

(Fortunately, that ticket must have made an impression since there hasn't been another one. Drive carefully and defensively; it's a jungle out there.)

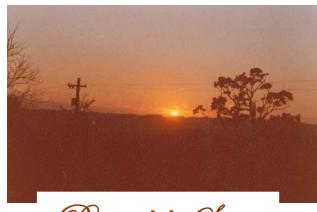
God is Love

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"Most assuredly I say to you, he who believes in Me has everlasting life."

- Jesus (John 6:47)

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Major General David L. Evans,

Shelbyville, TN In memory of his birthday



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(continued

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"Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong. Let all that you do be done with love."

- Paul's good advice to the Corinthians (I Cor. 16:13)

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"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- Paul (Rom. 8:38-39)

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"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths." - Proverbs 3:5-6

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"Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father."

 Jesus answers Philip's request, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us."
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Bobby Smithson Sheryl, Claire, Justin & James Sellers James R. Smithson Sara P. Hood Nadine & Gene Smithson James & Helen Jones Costello Nellie Smithson, Franklin, TN Paul M. & Mary J. Krech Peytonsville CoC, Franklin, TN Lucy Bailey Snyder, Fairmont, W V John Adams The Kincells Avalon Healthcare Solutions Michael & Donna Calvani Robert H. & Lucille D. Martin Susan & Jack Tuttle Ron Sobon, Omaha, NE Saundra S. Ellison Bobby South, Jasper, TX James & Linda Warner Don South, Memphis, TN Bill Plunk Mattie Southwood Parrish Church of Christ Drew A. Sowards, Vienna, VA Elizabeth Sowards James Sparkman Anthony & Barbara Turner Joe & Jewel Cottrell James R. Sparks, Nashville, TN Chris Brosey Jeffrey T. Spears James & Madelyn Spears Wayne Douglas "Cowboy" Spears, Waverly, TN Rick & Debbie Binkley Ray Staniszewski, South Fulton, TN Emily & Leslie Jenkins

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Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not depend on your own understanding (Proverbs 3:5)

SEEK JOY 1

- = "For His anger is but for a moment; His favor is for life; Weeping may endure for a night, but *joy* comes in the morning." Psalm 30.5
- = "These things have I spoken to you, that My *joy* may remain in you, and that your *joy* might be full." John 15:11
- = "My brethren, count it all *joy* when you fall into various trials." James 1.2
- = "You will show me the path of life: in Your presence is fullness of *joy*; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore." Psalm 16:11
- = "Until now you asked nothing in My name; ask and you shall receive, that your *joy* may be full." John 16:24
- = "... Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory" I Pet.1:8
- = "..., there is joy in the presence of the angels of **God** over one sinner that repents." Luke 15:10

BE AWARE OF FRAUD. IT'S RUNNING RAMPANT EVERYWHERE – ON LAND PHONES, **CELL PHONES, TELEVISION. DON'T BE A VICTIM!**

LIVING HONORS GIVEN IN JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER2021

GIVEN IN HONOR OF

Tom Altenbach, Yuba City, CA Happy Birthday! 🞜 Joe & Lynda Evans Greg & Brenda Atkison, Henderson, KY Honoring your support and contribution for 16 years to the Central Church of Christ, Henderson, KY Central Church of Christ John & Tiffany Atkison, Robards, KY Honoring your support & contribution for 16 years to the Central Church of Christ, Henderson, KY Central Church of Christ Bonnie Ausbrook, Portland, TN Theron & Mary Bolen Raburn & Sandra Barron, Hermitage, TN Happy 60th Wedding Ann. ♥♥ Jim & Marge Gregory Arthur Bartlett, Nashville, TN **Rachel Storey** Caleb Betts, Fort Myers, FL Thank you for showing me the importance of this ministry. Nancy Betts Lyndall Blue, Henderson, KY Honoring your support & contribution for 16 years to the Central Church of Christ, Henderson, KY Central Church of Christ John & Gail Bouffard, Tolland, CT Francis S. & Barbara L. Rohan Keith & Julia Boyd, Adams, TN Demetra Bovd Betty Brown, New Caney, TX Betty Easley Michael & Shirley Bryant, Centerville, TN Happy 50th Wedding Ann.♥♥ James A. Duncan Donald & Nancy Burke, Franklin, TN Tracy & Andy Hall Dianne Calahan, Brentwood, TN Thanks for your help working with food boxes Tom & Katherine McGill Curtis & Pat Carroll, Millington, TN David & Diana Wilson Inez Cash, Enville, TN Happy 100th Birthday!



Glynn & Peggy Caughman, Mount Juliet, TN Happy 55th Wedding Anniversary! 🖤 Jim & Marge Gregory Joyce G. Chaney, Harvest, AL Jon Bratcher **Cordell & Maie Choate** David & Judy Poynor Family Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, Inc. Workers, Volunteers & Truck Drivers Al Shellenbarger Barbara Carden Morris, Jr. & Terrie A. Bowens **Donald & Susan Wetzel** Jean Tate Donnah Crater, Lufkin, TX Theron & Mary Bolen Don & Sally Crenshaw, Robards, KY Honoring your support and contribution for 16 years to the Central Church of Christ, Henderson, KY Central Church of Christ Charlene Cunningham Anonymous Adam & Tosha Cyr, Henderson, TN Claudia Goodson Harry & Mary Darrow, Pittsboro, NC Barbara Kennedy James Dillon, Jacksonville, FL Kerry Dillon Diane Dodson, Nashville, TN Such as inspiration to all of us Anonymous donor from Charlotte Heights Ch of Christ Dennis & Leimomi Drulias, Artsia, CA Happy 52nd Wedding Ann. ♥♥ Bellflower Church of Christ Janice Durham, Pisgah Forest, NC Billy Don & Paula Curbo Otis & Elise Eaton, Waco, TX Faithful to remember the sick Freda Haak Chuck Elia, Garden Ridge, TX Happy 100th Birthday! M/M John Miller, Sr. Jimmy & Linda Fletcher, Mount Juliet, TN Happy 50th Wedding Ann. ♥♥

Jim & Marge Gregory Evelyn Force, Hermitage, TN Happy 93rd Birthday! Jim & Marge Gregory Tommy & Virginia Fortner, Joelton, TN Bob Murray, Carolyn Mitchell Ronald Franke, Madison Hghts, MI Happy Birthday! J M/M Christopher J. Franke

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LIVING HONORS GIVEN IN JULY, AUGUST & SEPTEMBER2021

GIVEN IN HONOR OF

Larry Ray, Henderson, KY Honoring your support & contribution for 16 years to the Central Church of Christ, Henderson, KY Central Church of Christ Jerry & Virginia Reynolds, Mount Juliet, TN Jim & Marge Gregory Jerry Reynolds, In Appreciation Doug & Lois McCormick Marc Rinks, Mount Juliet, TN Happy 90th Birthday! Jim & Marge Gregory Beth & Julio Rivas, Nashville, TN Claudia Goodson Galen & Donna Romine, Hermitage, TN Happy 50th Wedding Ann. ♥♥ Jim & Marge Gregory Bennet Rowan, Little Rock, AR Charles Pittman Caleb Rowan, Springdale, AR Charles Pittman Priestly Scott, Puryear, TN **Charlotte Chilcutt**

Johnathan J. Simmons, Killeen, TX Janet Simmons James H. Simpson, Conyers, GA Happy Birthday 🎜 Ed & Annette Prince Ed & Linda Slayton, Brentwood, TN "We appreciate you" The Burris Family Allen & Vicki Smith, Henderson, KY Honoring your support & contribution for 16 years to the Central Church of Christ, Henderson, KY Central Church of Christ M/M Wavell Stewart, Nashville, TN Happy 56th Wedding Ann. ♥♥ Joe & Jewel Cottrell Debbie Janes Summers, In Appreciation! Sandra J. Janes Richard Tatum, Jr., Brentwood, TN Dick & Janice Tatum Meredith Thompson, Portland, TN Jim Thompson

Jobee & Cathy Thrasher, Olive Branch, MS Honoring your support & contribution for 16 years to Central Ch of Christ, Henderson, KY Central Church of Christ AI Thweatt, Brentwood, TN Serving as Elder at Crieve Hall Church of Christ Joe & Jewel Cottrell Elizabeth Till, Daphne, AL Thank you for being the Godly woman that you are. Happy 100th Birthday! J



Michael & Robyn Underwood

Allen Wagner, Arlington, TN Happy Birthday! ♫ Sydney Wagner M/M Allen Wagner, Arlington, TN Sydney Wagner

Waverly flood Victims

Dale & Lisa Birge Edith Kaiser Schmidt Meredith Thompson Judy Weatherspoon, Nashville, TN In Appreciation!

- Jean Cox Alan & Allison Wilson, Henderson, KY Honoring your support & contribution for 16 years to the Central Church of Christ, Henderson, KY Central Church of Christ
- Billie Wilson, Henderson, KY Honoring your support &contribution for 16 years to the Central Church of Christ, Henderson, KY Central Church of Christ
- Mike Wilson, Henderson, KY Honoring your support &contribution for 16 years tothe Central Church of Christ, Henderson, KY Central Church of Christ
- Randy & Michelle Wright Worked with CCDRE in FL following Hurricane Katrina Judith Outlaw Robert Wright, Charleston, TN
- Audrey Dunnebecke

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEER TRUCK DRIVERS By Mike Lewis

CCDRE has been blessed by the drivers that are willing to volunteer their time to deliver supplies to disaster survivors. These men and women will drop things they are doing or rearrange their schedules and appointments so they can take supplies to areas, and families that badly need them. We lease sleeper tractors so other than when they stop at a truck stop for fuel and to take a shower, they are living and sleeping in the truck! These drivers in most cases are going into areas where they have no idea what the landscape is going to look like; until they arrive, they don't know other than by word of mouth what shape the area will be in, plus areas you can access by car or pickup by church members may not be accessible in a semi-tractor and trailer that is 75' long! Congregations in some areas do not have a paved access or paved parking lots for their church building, meaning a semi-trailer full of supplies cannot be pulled into a church yard where it has been raining for days. In



those instances they have to be unloaded at the street. Street signs may be down, roads may be under water, and when you are driving into an unfamiliar area even GPS systems might be giving the correct directions, but you still don't know if it is the correct street if you can't see any markings! With areas like southern Louisiana that are so close to sea level, roads might seem fine, and then when the tide comes in, they are under water. We appreciate all of our drivers very much, and could not do things as quickly as we are able to without them.

CCDRE EXTENDS BEST WISHES TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY FOR A WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON AND A HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR! Churches of Christ DISASTER RELIEF EFFORT, INC. P. O. Box 111180 Nashville, Tennessee 37222-1180

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Effort, Inc. P. O. Box 111180/410 Allied Drive Nashville, Tennessee 37222-1180

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> Newsletter Editor Edna M. Walling

"For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some have coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with any sorrows." - Timothy

Editorial

Affluence can be our downfall

It was shortly before 722 B.C., **God** and the prophet **Hosea** were trying to get the northern kingdom (Israel) to forsake their idols, remember their humble beginning, and be faithful to **God**. Prosperity had increased Israel's moral corruption. Her strength and prosperity gave rise to boasting about her privileged status as the **Lord**'s chosen people. They used dishonesty in dealing with their fellowman, just like today. Idols made today could be described as money, jobs, possessions and more "stuff."



Edna M. Walling Newsletter Editor

They were mistaken in thinking their wealth was the result of their own doing. They had everything they wanted, and did not feel like they needed God. Their prosperity allowed them to build more altars which enabled them to worship more idols. God brought judgment on them by allowing Assyria to take most of the northern kingdom into exile.

The Southern Kingdom (Judah) wasn't doing much better, and in about 150 years **God** got fed up with all of them, and used old pagan Nebuchadnezzar to take them into exile in Babylon where they stayed until Cyrus, founder of owned them to return home

the Persian Empire, allowed them to return home.

In earlier times, **Moses** cautioned the Israelites about affluence when he reminded them in the 6th chapter of Deuteronomy "When the Lord your God brings you into the land He swore to your fathers.... to give you a land with large flourishing cities you did not build, houses filled with all kinds of good things you did not provide, wells you did not dig, vineyards and olive groves you did not plant – then when you eat and are satisfied, be careful that you do not forget the **Lord**, who brought you out of Egypt..."

Jesus had a lot to say about the danger of riches when he told the parable about the rich man who would build bigger barns to store his abundance of grain. Jesus didn't mince words when he said, "You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself? This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not rich toward God." (Luke 12:20-21) Matthew 19 records that the young rich man had obeyed all the rules then asked, "What good thing must I do to get eternal life?" When Jesus told him to "sell your possessions and give to the poor," the young man went away sorrowful. Wealth tends to breed self-sufficiency and a false sense of security, leading the wealthy to imagine they do not need divine resources.

Most people who live in our country are blessed beyond measure. The poorest person in our country is rich compared to some in other countries. We don't have the capacity to adequately thank **God** for our blessings. May we slow down, take the time to try to count our many blessings and never forget **Him** from **Whom** all blessings flow.