

Attendance and Contribution						
Mo	Wk	BS	MW	EW	Wed	Cont
Dec	26	cancelled/weather			14	\$
Dec	19	7	23	11	14	\$719
Dec	12					\$603
Dec	5	10	22	11	11	\$291
Nov	28	14	22	21	14	\$522

Programs to Watch and Share

SEARCH

Sundays @ 7:00 am WUXP-TV 30
 Sundays @ 10:00 am WHTN-TV 39
 Mack Lyon, speaker
 www.searchtv.org

PREACHING THE GOSPEL

Sundays @ 7:30 am WUXP-TV30
 James Watkins, speaker

Assignments	January
Song leader (SS)	Ken Thomas
Announcements	Ken Thomas
Songleader-Worship	Tim Waldron
Scripture reading	T. J. Waldron
Opening prayer	Steve Miller
Table service (center)	Junior Conner
(center)	T J Waldron
(outside)	Steve Miller
(outside)	Cole Gordon
Closing Prayer	Lee Rose

Last year we used a plan for reading the Bible through in a year reading from the Old Testament and New Testament every day, and also reading a passage from Psalms and Proverbs each day. It seemed that we had several who were motivated to read regularly and to prepare their minds for the lesson that was brought from those readings. Today a new format will be passed out which is a little different. Old and New Testament readings will be alternated, but the scheme does not require that we stay in the Old Testament continuously for most of the year. Let's try this for a week or so and see if it meets our needs. Any thing we can do to develop a daily habit of reading the scripture is better than no plan. I will plan to preach on readings for days 1-7 next Sunday night. (Genesis 1-25).

Remember - the Sunday evening lesson is based on the previous week's reading.



**Church of Christ
 at Beech Grove**

meeting at Beechgrove, TN since 1875

❖ Visitors Always Welcome ❖

14035 Murfreesboro Hwy.

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Phone 931-394-2305

<http://kennethlorin.com/BeechGroveChurch.html>

<http://kennethlorin.com/WeeklyBulletin.html>

Kenneth L. Thomas, minister - 615-890-6959

**The Days Are Evil
 by Michael E. Brooks**

"See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Eph. 5:15-16 NKJV).

In Bangladesh, New Year's Day is celebrated in some respects like it is in the United States and many other places, with a special meal which is said to bring good luck for the year.

The menu is simple and quite

specific. There is fried hilsha fish (the national fish), cold watery rice (called "panta baht"), fried dry red chili peppers, and salt. Perhaps the most interesting part of this meal is that it is traditionally eaten for breakfast, at dawn.

Most cultures have traditions related to the changing of the calendar. Many invoke deities with attempts to ensure their help for the coming year. Others are based on folklore, still others on psychological principles designed to help motivate us to achieve more.

(Continued)

Sunday Schedule

Bible Classes	10 AM
Worship	11 AM
Worship	6 PM
Wednesday: Bible Classes	7 PM

Mission Works & Evangelism

House to House/ Heart to Heart
 Restoration Radio
 Jim Waldron
 Manuelito Children's Home
 Church of Christ at Columbia, MS

Beech Grove News and Prayer Requests

Sick list - members, relatives and friends: Sandra Toops (Kristin's, mom) seems better. Laura Singleton is at home. Next Sunday is scheduled for fellowship and January birthday recognition. We hope the weather will cooperate enough for us to have it. Last Sunday services were canceled due to the icy conditions in the area. Hopefully that will not be necessary again as winter progresses. Since we did not publish a bulletin in late December, we extend belated sympathy to the family of Leon Trail who lost him to death recently.

Prayer list . . . Pray for

- Beechgrove, to hear the gospel.
- Christians who teach the gospel around the world.
- Mission work at home and abroad
- The effectiveness of our direct mailing of HtH/HtH.
- Those tempted by Satan to forsake the Lord, His church, and godly living.
- The lukewarm
- The sick and injured
- Widows and orphans
- Those who are bereaved.
- The unemployed and underemployed.
- Leaders of nations and local leaders.
- School teachers and students

- Garland Brown, Elizabeth Walker
 - Military personnel: Andy Miller family in Japan. Adam Thomas in N.C.
 - People suffering from disasters caused by nature and weather
-

“The Days . . .” continued

Most moderns recognize that the key to success is more often found in the individual's sincere effort to make the most of his opportunities, rather than in rituals or customs. One reason for all these customs is the recognition that every year will be filled with evils and problems. We live in evil times, just as the Holy Spirit has taught (2 Tim. 3:1-9).

Careful observation reveals that one year is much like another in terms of circumstances presented. Solomon declared, "That which has been is what will be, that which is done is what will be done, and there is nothing new under the sun" (Eccl.1:9).

War and rumors of wars continue unabated (Matthew 24:6); poverty and illness recur consistently (Mark 14:7). The temptations and difficulties we face are not unique to us or to our generation (1 Cor. 10:13).

What will make this year different from others, if it truly

becomes different, is not the particular events which befall us so much as the way in which we react to those events. No one can control circumstances.

Sin and evil will surround us all; as Paul said, "the days are evil". Jesus remarked, "Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (Matthew 6:34). All will face adversity. All will be challenged in this and every year. But how we respond to those challenges is up to us.

Some are discouraged, faint-hearted, and easily defeated. These quickly become victims, not so much of the world, as of their own weakness of spirit. All have the promise of God's help, if we trust in him and give him our submission and obedience.

"If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Romans 8:31). The list of obstacles helpless to separate us from Jesus (Romans 8:38-39) is impressive. It is only we ourselves who can prevent the strength and power of God from overcoming all obstacles.

Paul's solution is that we "walk circumspectly". The modern reader will recognize the root of this adverb as belonging to the group of words which includes "circle" and "circumference."

The apostle is not suggesting that we "go around in circles," or that we avoid difficulties (i.e., "go around" them), but that we walk carefully, always considering the circumstances of our lives. When one is in the safety of familiar territory he may walk without much concern. However, when in perilous conditions he must always pay careful attention. Paul points out that when it comes to living a Christian life in a sinful world, we must always be careful.

When Christians exercise such care, planning their lives by the word of God, they not only save themselves from spiritual disaster; they also may redeem the times (age? generation?) for others as well. Just as ten righteous men would have caused God to spare Sodom (Genesis 18:32), so a few faithful Christians give hope to their society. God reversed his decision to destroy Nineveh because of its King's repentance, which in turn led to the repentance of the entire population of the city (Jonah 3:6-7).

This year will hold abundant challenges for us all. Each of us can meet those challenges with God's help, bringing blessings to ourselves and many more as well.