

## BACKYARD RELIGION

Is it just imagination, or is history repeating itself? (cf. Ecclesiastes 1:9; Ecclesiastes 3:15). There was time in Israel when there was no government or central authority to see that everything was done right, so **“every man did what was right in his own eyes”** (Judges 17:6; Judges 18:1; Judges 19:1; cf. Deuteronomy 12:8) — including even building a church in one’s own backyard just to suit himself (Judges 17-18).

Micah’s church in the backyard seemed like a good idea. It was convenient, and suited his whims to a “T.” Only later did he discover some disconcerting and frustrating consequences. He paid a silversmith to make a graven image (something not allowed by the law of Moses) and set it up in his own house (Judges 17:1-5). In Judges 17:5, we see that he ordained his own son to be his priest (something only Levites were to do according to the Law – 1 Chronicles 23:21-32). Micah even made special garments for his son to wear (like the priests of old). Even Micah realized that not everything was quite right, for when a real Levite came by, Micah offered him a salary to be his priest, and that satisfied the Levite quite well (Judges 17:7-13).

Micah built his own faith by borrowing ideas from others. From Judaism, he would take some ideas, and from the nations round about, he would take their seraphim, “household gods” as a tribute to ancestor worship. The ideas taken from here and there resulted in a pitiful, terrible mixture of things as is often the case in a self-pleasing religion. If you read the whole story, things didn’t end well. Micah wails as his gods are captured, **“You take my gods which I made, and the priest, and go away, and what have I left?”** (Judges 18:22-24 ESV). It all fizzled out in the end.

I fear for those today who go about establishing religions and building their own churches according to their desires with ideas taken from a dozen religions and philosophies. What will their end be?

It would be well to remember the apostle Paul’s warning:

**“But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we preached to you, let him be accursed”** (Gal. 1:8 ESV).

Whatever kind of church you might establish yourself, you will never be able to compete with the one promised by Christ when He said, “I will build my church” (Matthew 16:18).

—John Gipson, via the Montana St. Bulletin

Hear weekly sermons on [www.trezevantchurchofchrist.org](http://www.trezevantchurchofchrist.org)

**AUGUST: BIRTHDAYS:** 5-Shirley Butler, 6-Greg McClain, 9-Charlie Wachsmuth, 10-Shan De Priest, 16-Dalton Moore, 19-Micky Keen, 23-Eli Bryant, 25-Nick Bryant, 28-Kyle Foster, 28-Dylan Holt, 28-Nina Long, 30-Annie Wachsmuth, 31-Ella-Marie Rogers

**ANNIVERSARIES:** 3-Steve & Rita Foster, 8-Joe & Shirley Butler, 14-Terry & Mary Jo Hall, 15-Tim & Wendy Rogers  
21-Charlie & Annie Wachsmuth

## WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?

**We must hear the word of God. Romans 10:17**

**We must believe the word of God. Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16; Mark 16:15-16**

**We must repent of our sins. Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38**

**We must confess Christ before men. Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10**

**We must be immersed for the remission of our sins. Acts 2:38; I Peter 3:21**

**We must live faithfully until death. Revelation 2:10; Romans 12:1-2**

**Bro. Freeman Mahan is here today and will be presenting the morning AND afternoon message. Take the opportunity to meet Bro. Mahan and his wife, and make them feel welcome.**

## •THOSE TO SERVE – AUGUST LIST IN FOYER

*(Please check for your assignment and PLEASE contact one of the Deacons if you know you are going to be absent on that date).*

## SHUT-INS /NURSING HOME:

Martha Nell Reed, Lakeside Retirement Community, 390 Dr. Smith Lane, McKenzie 38201

Elvy Sauls Jr., Life Care of Bruceton, 105 Rowland Ave., Bruceton 38317

**PRAYER LIST** Hunter Lindsey and Kelly Keen are both doing better. Sumpanty to the family of Sammy and Kevin Hudgins. Sammy is a THS '71 graduate and he and his son Kevin were killed in an auto accident on Thursday., George Aylor; Kaffie Green Kristie Deruiter, Gary Wallace, Lacey Appleton, Wanda Smith, Carnell McAlister, Christopher Dunavan, Jimmy McClain; Dwayne Bateman; Sybil Hamilton, Tom Aden, Doris Haskell, Mary Bryant, Charlotte Russell, Harold Hutcherson, Charles Foster, Penny Warren, Vicki Murphy (Lexington), Mike Lane, Ruth Bennett, Heather Harris, Chris Bowers; Aaron Sutton; Valerie Allen

**CANCER:** Dan Foster, Jane Woodson, Ray Box, Denise Clemmer, Kenneth Foster, Joe Gordon, Linda Cherry; Jackie Smith, Keith Inman. Lynn Harrison, Deborah Browning; Hattie Brinkley Berry, Christine Johnson, Jimmy Greene, Lalanie Murphy

*(If you requested that someone be added to the prayer list please provide update. Names normally remain on prayer list for 1 month, unless requested to remain)*

**Trezevant church of Christ**, 114 Church St., Trezevant, TN 38258, 731-669-3448, Tim Rogers, Minister

## Services:

Sunday Morning

Bible Study: 9:00 a.m.

Worship: 10:00 a.m.

Evening: 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.

## Elders:

Dale Aden Cell: 731-415-1161

David Bryant Cell: 731-418-1311 Home: 731-669-9648 [waynebryant25@gmail.com](mailto:waynebryant25@gmail.com)

Steve Foster Cell: 731-225-4395

## Deacons:

David Brasher Cell: 731-415-0636

Greg McClain Cell: 731-694-0766

Mark Wright Cell: 731-571- 5606

Youth Coordinator: Nick Bryant 694-2983

MISSIONS: Partners in Africa; West TN Children's Home