

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Class 9:00 AM
Sunday AM Worship10:00 AM
Sunday PM Worship 6:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Class 7:00 PM

Elders

Paul “Sonny” Janeway (623) 583-2726
Chuck Kolinchak (602) 938-9429
Allan Davis (602) 439-5953

Evangelist

James Dale (623) 882-6671
nsminister@cox.net

Deacon

Joshua Casselman (Education)
(602) 938-2800

Contacts

Jon Lykins (Buildings and Grounds)
Ken Phillips (Worship / Nursing Home)

Supported Mission Works

Terry Laurence
Navajo Reservation, Ft. Defiance, AZ

Eddison Gruber
Navajo Reservation, Crownpoint NM

Dave Chamberlin (Instructor)
Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver

Jesus Gonzalez
Agua Prieta, Mexico

Alonso Villalobos
Veracruz Mexico

P
L

Prayer List

- * Rich Rivers undergone testing due to a high PSA count.
- * Raechel, Dora’s Granddaughter is having eye problems
- * Wanda Glover is recovering from surgery
- * Please keep Yvette Stevenson’s mother in your prayers.
- * Harris – young man Jamie Dale nannies for, possibility of being bi-polar
- * Eugene Johnson, Jean “Muenchow” Johnsons, husband has cancer.
- * Andy Marchbanks kidney’s are doing better
- * Roosevelt Burns, Kevin’s brother is dealing with some major health issues.
- * Jim Peters, in rehab for two more weeks
- * Jim Greene is recovering from a bone marrow transplant, but needs to gain some weight.
- * Max & Rena Proffitt both have health issues
- * Cathy Kirshners son Stephan is having personal problems
- * Seth Begay, Ben Begay’s son has cancer
- * Tammy & Ashley Avery personal struggles
- * The Carpenter Family,

Best Wishes This Week

Alec Oliva
Rhiannon Casselman

July 25 (B)
July 28 (B)

THE GUARDIAN

“Guard my soul and deliver me; Do not let me be ashamed, for I take refuge in Thee.” Ps. 25:20

Northside, church of Christ

20222 North 32nd Dr., Phoenix Arizona 85027 (623) 780-9763 (Fax) 623-780-0266

www.northsidechurchofchrist.org

Vol. 7

July 24th / 2011

No. 28

Causes and Reasons

In his book, *Why Good Arguments Often Fail* (IVP, 2006), James W. Sire tries to help Christians make more persuasive arguments for Christ. He discusses logical fallacies that plague us, and ways to speak the truth without falling into these fallacies. He also draws a distinction between *causes* for what we believe, and *reasons* for what we believe, especially as they relate to faith in God.

He cites several answers that might be given for belief in God: “My parents are Christians,” “I grew up going to church,” etc. These, he says are *causes*—that is they are not based on rational thought, but have been formed by sociological forces. On the other hand, responses such as “My belief in God gives me hope,” “My faith provides meaning and direction for my life,” or “There is a lot of evidence that Jesus was and is the Son of God,” are *reasons*—based on rational consideration of the evidence.

Why does it matter? He gives two reasons: (1) “It is important for Christians because without some sense of why they are Christians, they may hold their faith with reservations (and thus weaken their Christian life) or lose their faith entirely.” (2) “The distinction is important because one of the charges against Christians is that they believe what they do primarily—or solely—because they have been raised in a Christian environment. They have been *caused* to believe. If they thought about it, skeptics say, they would change their minds” (Pages 48-49).

Sire makes me think that we really do need to teach our young people to examine the evidence for their faith. Peter exhorts, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and *be* ready always to *give* an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear” (1 Peter 3:15). We need to be ready to give the reason for our belief—not the cause. It is of great benefit to have Christian parents, a Christian environment, and Christian influence. At the same time, our faith must be examined. Can you give the reason for your faith?

-Bob Prichard

Welcome to the services of the Church. If you are visiting with us, we appreciate your presence and invite you to stay a few moments after services so we may have an opportunity to meet you. **Please feel free to pick up one of our Visitors Packets in the foyer.**

Spiritual Blindness

There is a saying that fits so well when speaking of spiritual blindness: “None are so blind as those who will not see.”

The blindness of Israel led them to sin: “*We grope for the wall like the blind, and we grope as if we had no eyes: we stumble at noon day as in the night; we are in desolate places as dead men.*” (Isaiah 59:10). Israel had rebelled against God. They had turned a “blind eye” to the direction or guidance of the Law of Moses. They refused to “see” its purpose, and they refused to live by the Law. Their sins had separated them from their God, Isaiah 59:1-2.

Cataracts are like a “veil” over the eyes. The Jews had a similar spiritual blindness. When Christ came, the Jews refused to give up the Old Testament. Their trust in the old law was like a “veil” over their face keeping them from “seeing” the truth: “*But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same veil untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which veil is done away in Christ. {15} But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the veil is upon their heart*” (2 Corinthians 3:14-15).

Jesus noted that the “blindness” was by their choosing to close their eyes: “*For this people’s heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them*” (Matthew 13:15). Truly, none are so blind as those who will not see.

From these verses we see that God is not responsible for “spiritual blindness.” Someone else helps man: “*In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them*” (2 Corinthians 4:4). Many let Satan steal away any word of God they have learned: “*And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts*” Mark 4:15).

Spiritual blindness holds a damning grip on those in the world: “*Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: {19} Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness*” (Ephesians 4:18-19). Unless one is willing to see there is no hope.

Spiritual blindness also causes slackness in fulfilling our Christian duties. The Christian has great responsibilities to grow. Peter said we are to diligently add certain things to our faith such as: “*virtue; and to virtue knowledge; {6} And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; {7} And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity*” (2 Peter 1:5-7). Peter said, “*He that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins*” (2 Peter 1:9).

Spiritual blindness brings a terrible fate: “*Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch*” (Matthew 15:14). Spiritual blindness is voluntary. Remember, there are none so blind as those who will not see!

—John D. Cotham (edited)

(1) We will be having an **end of summer work day at the building August 13th**. We will start at 8:00 a.m. and work until we stop. There will be work inside the buildings as well as outside. We need to clean up our field next to the building so if you have gas powered weed eaters, rakes, shovels and hoes these will be helpful. A body attached to those things will be nice as well.

(2) **Updated Directories** have been printed. Northside members can pick one up in the back room.

(3) **VBS UPDATE:** Please check for sign up lists for teaching assignments and snack and food items. Our VBS will be August 1-5th this year.

(4) **Spiritual Talents and Gifts surveys** have been printed for those who would like to fill one out. If you need help with the survey please speak to James Dale.

(5) **We are continuing to update our photo board.** If you would like a new picture or have not yet had your picture taken please see Jan Burkhardt.

WORTH WATCHING

Search The Scriptures - KAZT Channel 13 - Sunday - 7:30 a.m.
On the Internet “Gospel Broadcasting Network” - www.gbntv.org

Northside Calendar

Visit our online calendar at www.northsidechurchofchrist.org

Crafts: Summer Break - Will start up again in the Fall

Potluck: Tonight – Evening Finger-food - Everyone is welcome.

Ladies Class: August 21st - 5:00 p.m.

Men’s Business Meeting: August 21st - 5:00 pm.

Elders/Deacons Meeting: Today - 5:00 p.m.

In Touch, this week: Team 3

Communion to shut-ins: Allan D (24th), Chuck K (31st)

Monday Group Bible Study: Summer Break – Will start up again in September

Thursday Community Prayer Meeting: Every Thursday 6:30-7:00 p.m., at the building (1Tim. 2:1-8)

Friday Evangelism Prayer Meeting: Every Friday 6:30-7:00 p.m., at the building (Col 4:2-6)

CD’s are available for both morning and evening sermons. See Josh Casselman for more information. *If you requested CD’s please be sure to pick your copies up.*

*If you have small children, infant to 3 yrs old, we provide an **attended nursery**. We also have a training room for your convenience.*