

Laurel Church of Christ

Family Focus

January 16, 2022

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FAITH HEALERS AND PANDEMICS

By Steve Higginbotham

While a student at Freed Hardeman College in 1983, I took my wife-to-be on a date to an Oral Roberts healing service in Jackson, TN (she still razzes me about our exciting dates). At the conclusion of this healing service, Oral Roberts told everyone present that God had completely healed every single person in the assembly, from the top of our heads to the bottom of our feet. As the meeting came to an end and people were exiting, I told my wife-to-be to take note of how many people were still wearing their glasses. Seems that no one in the assembly was healed of that malady.

Fast forward 20 years. The year was 2003 when Richard Roberts, son of Oral Roberts, was scheduled to hold a healing meeting for more than 2,000 followers at the Elmer S. McVety Centre in Toronto, Canada. However, Roberts canceled the event due to a travel advisory for Toronto because of the number of SARS cases reported there. Does it not seem to you that if Roberts had the power he claims to have, rather than canceling the event, that's exactly where he needed to be?

Fast forward nearly another 20 years, and we are in the midst of the COVID pandemic. However, Kenneth Copeland, another alleged faith-healer, stated that as a prophet of God, he commanded COVID to leave the USA and that it would harm no one else. That statement was made months ago before thousands of people have died from COVID after this prophet banished it from the United States.

Are you seeing a pattern? Friends, if a silver lining can be found in this terrible pandemic, it might be to trust more in God, and less in men who claim to be His representatives, and to spend more time in God's word, and less time listening to the words of men (1 Tim. 4:1-2).

Being like Christ John 15:4-5

Pray for the sick: We have many on our prayer list. You may not know some of them, but God knows them and their needs, so let's lift them up.

Faith Fooks, Dave Newberry, Gloria Hurley, Terry Hastings, Kay Murphy, Kristy Brady, Robin Anderson, Natalie Anderson, Pat Tucker, Michelle Tucker, Sandi Holt, Michael Roulis, Rhonda Cipolla, Cindy and Dwight, all with continuing health concerns. On-going personal Bible studies.

Kerri and family—(Dad's return of brain cancer)
Marissa (Robin Anderson's niece; shock trauma
James McCartney; prostate cancer (has not spread to his bones)

Doris Mathis; upcoming shoulder surgery
Carol (Sandi's friend) tongue cancer.

Quinn's father; bloodclot (Annabelle's friend)
Vinnie's mother; hospitalized

All those with COVID—we have many of our own.

Opportunities for study and worship

Sunday: (In person and virtually at:
www.laurelcoc.org)

Bible Classes	9:00 a.m.
Worship	10:00 a.m.
Teen Devo	6:00 p.m.

Thursday:

Men's Bible Study	8:30 a.m.
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Wednesday

Bible Study at building	6:30 p.m.
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We invite you to attend any of our service times, and we look forward to welcoming you, and pray that you might find a home here with us in Laurel and with God in heaven as His child.

If you need Media help — connections, addresses, or general questions contact: Don Trader or Julio Brennick

CROWN FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CLASS begins Friday, Feb. 25. See John Justice or Troy Mathis for Information.

CAREY TERRY will be returning to Laurel Jan. 30-Feb. 2. Reserve those dates.

MEN'S BREAKFAST Saturday, Jan. 29 at 8:00 at Pizza King. Carey Terry will be the speaker.

FELLOWSHIP MEAL will be the 5th Sunday, Jan. 30th. The theme will be Mexican dishes.

2022 WALL CALENDAR Get your dates on the wall Calendar by giving them to Diane.

WOMEN TO WOMEN WORKSHOP April 9th in FLC.

TRIP TO SIGHT AND SOUND: 5 seats left on the bus. See Ginger to reserve a seat by Feb. 1st.

MEN TO SERVE:

Welcome/Scripture: Danny-16th, Christian-23rd

Prayer: John-16th, Lanny-23rd

Table: David-16th, Troy M.-23rd

Announcements/closing prayer: Shawn

Song leader: Troy F.-16th, David-23rd

WHO WE ARE

The body of Christ in Laurel, Delaware is a family of believers knit together in love (Colossians 2:2), striving to serve God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) and carrying the gospel to the lost (Matthew 28:18). We are an autonomous body with Christ only as our head, and elders shepherding the flock of God (Acts 20:28).

We have been entrusted with the gospel (I Thessalonians 2:4) and so it is that we speak. The congregation seeks to uphold the doctrine and practice of the first century church using the only true standard, the Bible, as our guide (2 Peter 1:3). It is our prayer that all would come to a knowledge of the truth and partake in that divine fellowship in the body of Christ, being immersed for the remission of sins, and beginning life anew with Christ as Lord (Acts 2:38, Romans 6:1). Our plea is that we might be one in Christ, and serve the Lord faithfully unto death to receive our crown (Revelation 2:10).