

# Listening For God's Voice

By Mike Riley

A Native American and his friend were in downtown New York City, walking near Times Square. It was during the noon lunch hour, and the streets were filled with people. Cars were honking their horns, taxicabs were squealing around corners, sirens were wailing, and the sounds of the city were almost deafening. Suddenly, the Native American said, "I hear a cricket." His friend said, "What? You must be crazy. You couldn't possibly hear a cricket in all this noise!" "No, I'm sure of it," the Native American said, "I heard a cricket." "That's crazy," said the friend.

The Native American listened carefully for a moment and then walked across the street to a big cement planter where some shrubs were growing. He looked into the bushes beneath the branches, and sure enough, there was a small cricket. His friend was utterly amazed. "That's incredible," said his friend. "You must have super-human ears!" "No," said the Native American. "My ears are no different from yours. It all depends on what you're listening for." "But that can't be," said the friend. "I could never hear a cricket in all this noise." "Yes, you can," came the reply. "Here, let me show you." He reached into his pocket, pulled out a few coins, and discreetly dropped them on the sidewalk. And then, with the noise of the crowded street still blaring in their ears, they noticed that every person's head within twenty feet turned and looked to see if the money that tinkled on the pavement was theirs. "See what I mean?" asked the Native American. "It all depends on what's important to you, and what you're listening for."

What's important to us? What do we listen for? Are there times that we fail to listen to God, because we are focused on other things that are more important to us? Regarding the Jews, Jesus said, "For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, so that I should heal them. But blessed are your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear." (Matthew 13:15-16; cf. Isaiah 6:9-10; Acts 28:26-27).

Brothers, amid the distractions of the world all around us, may our ears always be open, not only ready to listen for, but to hear and be obedient to God's voice as He speaks to us through His word (1 Samuel 3:9-10; cf. John 8:47; John 10:4; John 10:27; 1 John 4:6).



## STERLINGTON Church of Christ



P.O. Box 82  
1095 Highway 2  
Sterlington, Louisiana 71280  
[www.sterlingtoncoc.com](http://www.sterlingtoncoc.com)

Sunday Morning Bible Classes - 9:30 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship - 10:30 AM  
Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM  
Wednesday Evening Classes - 6:00 PM.

## Welcome Visitors

If you are seeking a church home, we hope that you will consider joining with us. We are a growing congregation, dedicated to worshiping in truth and spirit. Please fill out the Visitor's Card and place it in the collection plate!

## Those to Serve

### Today

**Announcements**- Paul Simpson

**Opening prayer**- Gary Harris

**Communion**- Lyle Russell

**Closing Prayer**- Travis Rogers

**Sermon**- Don DeLukie

### Next Sunday

**Announcements**- Lyle Russell

**Opening prayer**- Paul Simpson

**Communion**- Rick Cook

**Closing Prayer**- David Repond

**Sermon**- Don DeLukie

## Announcements

— Check the bulletin board in the foyer for local events and Gospel Meetings happening in our area.

— **Question & Answer Series:** Our next Question & Answer Series will be when enough questions are collected. Give your questions to Don.

— **Children's Home Collection:** Our congregation is collecting items for the Children's Home in Paragould, AR. Collection boxes are by the nursery. A list of needed items is in the foyer.



Scan the QR  
code to visit  
our website.

*The Lord himself  
goes before you &  
will be with you,*

HE WILL NEVER LEAVE YOU NOR FORSAKE YOU.  
DO NOT BE AFRAID; DO NOT BE DISCOURAGED.

DEUTERONOMY 31:8  
bluechairblessing.com

## Please Pray For:

Lavenia Freeman, Terry Smith Atwood, Shirley Taylor, Kris McKoin, Debbie Bright Chunn, Lester Pinkard, Charles Matheny, Don DeLukie, Carla Owen, Rhonda Rogers, Katherine Riley, Kathy Gilbert, Phillip Simmons, Verlinda Gooden, Oddie Cameron, Gavin McDaniel, Eli Simmons, Blayne Atkins.

**Bereaved:** Family of Kevin McCraken, Isabelle Turner.

## Needing Long-Term Prayers:

Jo Darris Collins, Christy McDaniel, Joyce Moses, Pam Few, Debbie Walker, Carey Day, Leo & Shirley Goodwin, Tommy Franklin, Arthur Binford, Dan Ross Jr, Dena White, Larry & Joanne Randolph, Bettye Flowers, Dave & Linda Garris, Sharon White-Ross, Bobby Barker, Cindy Smith, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross.



### October Birthdays

2 - Rick VanLoon	18 - Randal Freeman
7 - Joyce McDonald	24 - Jean Delukie
12 - Barbara Wheeler	26 - Kari Johnstone
14 - Kathy Manning	27 - Charles Fricke
15 - Chuck Boyer	31 - Bobby Barker

### October Anniversaries

None