

# The Stranger

By Mike Riley

About eight years after I was born, my father met a stranger who was new to our small Texas town. From the beginning, he was fascinated with this enchanting newcomer and soon invited him to live with our family. The stranger was quickly accepted and was around from then on. As I grew up, I never questioned his place in my family. In my young mind, he had a special niche.

My parents were complementary instructors — my mother taught me good from evil, and my father taught me to obey. But the stranger — he was our storyteller. He would keep us spellbound for hours on end with adventures, mysteries, and comedies.

If I wanted to know anything about politics, history, or science, he always knew the answers about the past, understood the present, and even seemed able to predict the future! He took my family to the first major league ball game. He made me laugh, and he made me cry. The stranger never stopped talking, but my father didn't seem to mind.

Sometimes, my mother would get up quietly while the rest of us were shushing each other to listen to what he had to say, and she would go to the kitchen for peace and quiet. (I wonder now if she ever prayed for the stranger to leave).

Dad ruled our household with certain moral convictions, but the stranger never felt obligated to honor them. Profanity, for example, was not allowed in our home — Not from us, our friends, or any visitors. Our longtime visitor, however, got away with four-letter words that burned my ears and made my father squirm and my mother blush.

My father didn't permit the use of alcohol. But the stranger encouraged us to try it on a regular basis. He made cigarettes look cool, cigars manly, and pipes distinguished, yet he was seldom rebuked — and never asked to leave.

More than fifty years have passed since the stranger moved in with our family. He has blended right in and is not nearly as fascinating as he was at first. Still, if you could walk into my parents' living room today, you would still find him sitting over in his corner, waiting for someone to listen to him talk and watch all the pictures he'll bring to you.

What's his name you ask? We've called him "Television." He also has acquired a wife now — she's called "Computer." How do we get rid of these ungodly strangers?

Unplug them from the electrical wall socket — then go open, study, and meditate on God's word! (Acts 17:11; 2 Timo 2:15; Ps 1:1-2).



# STERLINGTON

Church of Christ



P.O. Box 82  
1095 Highway 2  
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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.

10/29/23

## 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-** Wayne Fowler **Opening prayer-** Ronnie Hayes

**Communion-** Lyle Russell

**Closing Prayer-** David Repond

**Sermon-** Don DeLukie

### November 5th

**Announcements-** Paul Simpson **Opening prayer-** Lyle Russell

**Communion-** Don DeLukie

**Closing Prayer-** Damien Miller

**Sermon-** Don DeLukie

## Announcements

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

**—Children's Christmas Program:** December 9th at 2 PM will be our Children's Christmas Program. Save the date!

**—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.



## Please Pray For:

Joyce McDonald, Cindy Smith, Ed Haltom, Phillip Simmons, Bess Baker, Linda Johnston, Gena Granger, Raelyn & Rynlea Freeman, Mike Wiggins, John McDaniel, Marilyn Hemler.

**Bereaved:** Families of Steve Gillikin, Bella Chandler, Cindy Bennett, Carolyn Moy, Frank McDaniel, Florence Matthews.

## Continue to Pray For:

Joanne Randolph, Dwain & Bettye Flowers, Susie McGough, Linda Garris, Sharon White-Ross, James & Lorene Johnson, Bobby Barker, Gail Sewell, Renee Gee, Malea Zuber, Bobby Simmons, Tricia Muse, Elizabeth Hollis, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross.



### October birthdays

- 2 - Rick VanLoon
- 7 - Joyce McDonald
- 11 - Luke Chapman
- 12 - Barbara Wheeler
- 14 - Kathy Manning
- 18 - Randal Freeman

### Birthdays & Anniversaries

### October anniversaries

- 22 - Wyatt Chapman
- 24 - Jean Delukie
- 25 - Lorene Johnson
- 27 - Charles Fricke
- 31 - Bobby Barker

