

# Testing and Trusting

By Mike Riley

In Exodus 17:7, we see the children of Israel testing the Lord by asking, "Is Jehovah in our midst or not?"

After the Israelites left Egypt for the land of Promise, they grumbled through the hot miserable desert. Even though God had demonstrated His watchful care for them, they still felt alone facing the threat of starvation and thirst (Exodus 15:22-25; Exodus 16:4-15). Their memories of His care for them, last no longer than their last meal. They complain. Would you?

How long does our faith endure when we are tested? "Is Jehovah in our midst or not?" In other words, is He still keeping up with me?

The people had little choice but to depend on God. No grain fields, no ready water supply, no real nourishment. They told Moses in certain terms. "Why did you bring us out here to suffer? We weren't so bad off in Egypt. At least we weren't starving!" (Exodus 16).

God responds by sending the manna and the quail. He provides water from a rock. He is in their midst! He did work miracles for them. He did provide. But it was a daily exercise in faith. Every day, they had to gather. They needed faith for each day .... that the manna would fall and the water would flow.

But what about me here and now? It's my "daily bread" I'm after (Matthew 6:11).

I am learning to take each day as it comes .... praying that God will provide a blessing for that day. Tomorrow is up to Him. I know He loves me because He wants my attention. And guess what? He gets it! That's the greatest part of faith. It's my daily dependence upon the One who cares the most (1 Peter 5:6-7).

Yes, the Lord is in our midst .... you can depend on it! (Matthew 18:19-20).



**STERLINGTON**  
**Church of Christ**



P.O. Box 82  
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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.

## 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**- Lyle Russell **Opening prayer**- Ronnie Hayes

**Communion**- Wayne Fowler **Closing Prayer**- Damien Miller

**Sermon**- Don DeLukie

### December 22nd

**Announcements**- Wayne Fowler **Opening prayer**- Travis Rogers

**Communion**- Phillip Simmons **Closing Prayer**- Arthur Binford

**Sermon**- Don DeLukie

## Announcements

**—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.

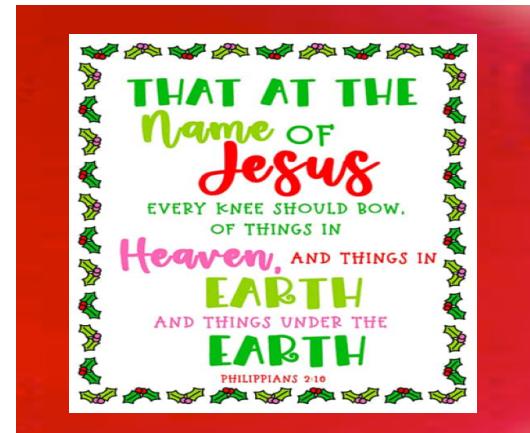
## Please Pray For:

Phillip, Zion and Elianna Simmons, Linda Johnston, Susie McGough, Lane Comaux, Pam Few, Lynn Urban, Roy Thompkins, Jerry Ketchian, Glenda Wells, Verlinda Gooden, Brenda Fricke, Tommy White, Christopher Fowler, Joyce Moses.

**Bereaved:** Family of Lawrence Dana.

## Needing Long-Term Prayers:

Leo & Shirley Goodwin, Tommy Franklin, Brigg DeLukie, Carol Granger, Arthur Binford, Dan Ross Jr, Ronnie & Dena White, Joanne Randolph, Bettye Flowers, Linda Garris, Sharon White-Ross, James Johnson, Bobby Barker, Cindy Smith, Renee Gee, Bobby Simmons, Terrance Dawson, Jamie Ross.



### December Birthdays

- 5 - Joanie Franklin
- 14 - Wayne Fowler
- 15 - Jonah Scharf
- 20 - Vee Boren
- 22 - Brad Farrington
- 23 - Randall Lambert
- 24 - Louvenia Dickson
- 26 - Matt Scharf
- 27 - Rick Cook

### December Anniversaries

- 5 - Dan and Ethel Ross
- 10 - Rick and Sandy Van Loon
- 18 - Gary and Sharon Harris
- 27 - Leo and Shirley Goodwin
- 28 - Tommy and Joanie Franklin

