

SERVICE SCHEDULE for September 21, 2014

Announcements for the Week	Andy Fuller
Morning Service	Evening Service
Prayer- Don Casper	Prayer- Phillip Dorn
Song Leader- Jason LaChappelle	Song Leader- Marshall Irvin
Communion:	
-- Comments – Andy Dobbs	Comments – Russ Sollars
-- Assisting – Cliff Davis	Communion – Darryl Griffing
-- Assisting – Mike Shepherd	
-- Assisting – Curran LaChappelle	
-- Assisting – Dean Shacklock	
-- Scripture – Dan Buselmeier	Scripture – Gary Goddard
Closing Prayer- Mark Jones	Closing Prayer- Mark Jones

Wednesday Night – September 24, 2014

First Prayer– Roger German
Song Leader – John Paul Baker
Invitation – Bill McIlvain
Closing Prayer – Darryl Griffing
September 28 Evening Service: Matt Fuller

Upcoming Assignments

September	Communion	Cleaning
28	LaChappelle	Dobbs, Bailey, Fuller, LaChappelle, Shacklock
Oct 5	Criswell	Dorn, Irvin, Williams, Griffing

Ladies Bible Class Resumes --

The ladies bible class meets on the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month as 7PM. October 6 will be the next scheduled meeting. Time is 7PM.

The Violence Of Love -- "We have never preached violence, except the violence of love, which left Christ nailed to a cross. The violence that we must each do to ourselves is to overcome our selfishness. The violence we preach is not the violence of the sword, the violence of hatred. It is the violence of love that wills to beat weapons into sickles for work." — Oscar A. Romero



Schedule of Services

Sunday: 9 a.m., 10 a.m. & 5 p.m. Wednesday: 7:30 p.m.

This bulletin is published weekly. Edited by Bill McIlvain.

Send any articles for the bulletin to Preacher@covingtonchurchofchrist.com

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Covington Church of Christ

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Elders: Dan Buselmeier, Andy Dobbs, Bill McIlvain

Deacons: John Paul Baker, Doug Davidson, Andy Fuller,

Marshall Irvin, Jason LaChappelle

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More About Moses

1. What brought the locust plague to a halt?
2. When the plague of hail came, where was the one place it did not fall?
3. Whose rod was turned into a serpent that swallowed the Egyptian sorcerers' serpents?
4. What bit the Israelites, causing Moses to fix a brass figure on a pole?



How Big Is Too Big?

By Jim Jonas

Many modern churches have adopted a "mega-church mentality." In other words, bigger is better. I have also noticed a similar attitude among some brethren in the past few years. Is bigger necessarily better? How big is too big?

There are no direct statements in the Scriptures addressing the size of a congregation. This is one of the many areas where God allows human judgment to determine a proper course of action.



How Big Is Too Big?

Continued

Some may cite the thousands in the early Jerusalem congregation in support of large churches, but that situation was both artificial and temporary. God allowed Jerusalem to be whittled down by persecution so the people would not huddle together and fail their mission (see Ac 8:1, 4; 11:19ff).

There are some practical considerations that relate to size. A church that is very small often lacks the encouragement and resources that it desperately needs. There is no virtue in being too few.

On the contrary, very large churches can lack a closeness that fosters inner strength. People get lost in the shuffle. Recognizing this, many mega-churches are now implementing programs to break up their congregations into smaller groups to solve the problems of bigness. "Up to 60 percent of churchgoers come merely to observe. Consequently, a majority of believers never engage in personal relationships with others outside their immediate circle of friends" (Focus on the Family, 1/97, p 3).

Any church, regardless of the number of its members, which takes pride in its large size is too big – for its britches. If we think God needs size – say, to impress the lost – then we have lost sight of what truly converts sinners. In some circumstances it may be profitable to create size by merging two smaller groups in into one. Conversely, to divide a strong, healthy congregation and create two weak ones in its place is often disastrous. Some may say that such a statement is a lack of faith. I prefer to think it is facing reality.

The 1950s climate of religious fervor has waned. During that decade new churches were growing like weeds in many cities like Birmingham and Orlando. But today we are in the spiritual doldrums and the temptation is to do what the mega-churches are doing to attract a crowd.

In a sense, any town or city is too small as long as there are still lost people in this city. It is too big if we are not family, the elders are taxed beyond their resources, or we think that "the group" will get the job done.



How is Your Faith?

By Marvin Noble

Is your faith as strong as it used to be? Do you pray as often and with as much fervor as you once did? Do you enjoy the peace that passes understanding? When making choices for the use of your time, energy or money are you able to put the Lord first? Are you courageous in declaring your faith?

These are important questions because faith is an absolute essential to our spiritual survival. We walk by faith. We live by faith! The Hebrews writer warns that unbelief can cause us to depart from God, Hebrews 3:12. If you see within you signs of a weakening faith, you would do well to identify the danger.

Here are some threats to our faith: It is a sign of possible danger when a Christian becomes lax in studying the Word. (Remember, "*Faith comes by hearing the word of God*" *Romans 10:17*). Have you placed yourself in faith situations? Hebrews 3:13 tells us we can become hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. The company we keep, the material we read, the television we watch can gradually change our appetites, aspirations and convictions. We may have even deceived ourselves into thinking that we have not weakened, but when in reality we have become blind to our great danger.

If you see that your faith is threatened, meet the danger head on. "*Abstain from every form of evil.*" Schedule some time for daily study and meditation of the Word. Seek out companions who encourage growth in faith. Exercise and perfect your faith by use—and with all your might--practice what you believe. Eternity hangs in the balance. What will you do about it?



Answers from page 1

1. The Lord blew them away with a strong wind [Exodus 10:16-20]
2. In Goshen, where the Israelites dwelled [Exodus 9:26]
3. Aaron's [Exodus 7:10-12]
4. Fiery Serpents [Numbers 21:5-9]

