

The Day the Cricket Attended Church

By House to House Heart to Heart

AS A YOUTH, I squirmed through many a worship service. This particular Sunday was to have an added distraction.

As soon as the preacher got up to deliver his sermon, a cricket walked out onto the stage. He probably came from one of the cracks found most anywhere in that old building. Everyone in the first three rows saw the cricket. He looked dazed, and stumbled near the edge of the pulpit area. Our eyes followed his every step.

We could see that he had come to the other edge again, and so we internally shouted to ourselves, Jump! Jump! But alas, the cricket did not jump. Time after time he walked back and forth. I did not know if the sermon was any good that day, but the cricket was sure fun to watch.

When the invitation song began, we all stood up and watched the cricket run. He almost got stepped on when the song leader walked toward the microphone, and we all laughed. Then my laughter turned to amazement.

Someone had gone forward! My Dad. He was not a Christian and my mom and I had been trying for years to get him to come with us, to no avail until today. Now the preacher was taking him back to baptize him.

"Dad," I asked later. "What made you want to be baptized today?" Dad said, "Didn't you hear how Jesus gave His life for us so that we could be saved?" I hung my head in shame. The beautiful message of the Bible did not reach me that day. I was watching the cricket.

THOUGHT: A lot of things will tend to distract a person from worshipping God. But I learned my lesson. God is more important than anything.

God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24; Malachi 1:7).

Prayers and Concerns

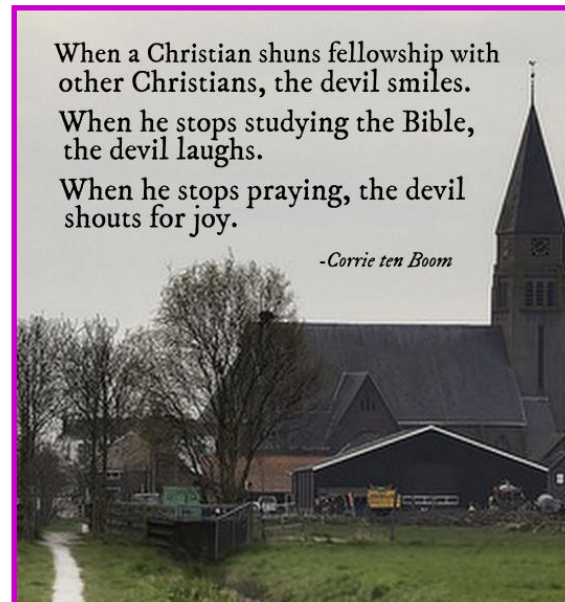
- ◆ Prayers of comfort for the Frye and Miller families as they attempt to live after the tragic death of Braden Frye. He was a junior at GHS.
- ◆ Greg Ebrite had a tumor removed from his bladder last Friday. He is waiting to hear if he needs further treatment.
- ◆ Julie Johnson will have carpal tunnel surgery May 7 on her wrist and elbow.
- ◆ Don Luna is still in ICU at Baxter. They are waiting for his colon to wake up after major surgery and anesthesia and four days of IV antibiotics. They will scan his abdomen again today or Monday and probably move him to the step-down unit on the 4th floor Monday.
- ◆ Remember those with health issues—Angie Hill, Randy Johnson, Bill Cockrum, Larry Butler, Aleta Collins, Lloyd Ellis, Rene Blackburn, Ruth Strain, Bob Robbins, Coe Hamm.
- ◆ All those battling cancer—Jamie Crisp, Ricky Langston, Lisa Langston, Tiffany Pleasant, Amy Myers, Don Luna, Jim Kirkland, Wayman King, Donna Shipley, Elaine Hunter (Larry's sister), Dawn (Chris Lemburg's sister), Lionel Daugherty, Jana Crisp, Richard Blackburn, Sharon Fox, Bill Agee, Joy Cutbirth, Dan Hardy.
- ◆ GHCC: Virginia Hambelton, Delphia Holmes. Clifford Lansdown at Hiram Shaddox; Wilbern Uchtman at Brook Haven.
- ◆ Homebound: Vernon James, Steve Siebels, Mary Piepergerdes.

When a Christian shuns fellowship with other Christians, the devil smiles.

When he stops studying the Bible, the devil laughs.

When he stops praying, the devil shouts for joy.

-Corrie ten Boom



God

didn't promise:
days without pain,
laughter
without sorrow,
nor sun without rain,
but he did promise:
strength
for the day,
comfort
for the tears
&
light for the way

Birthdays		Anniversaries	
5-5	Peggy Johnson	5-2	Angie and John Hill
5-5	Patty Donley	5-9	Paul and Beth Wade
5-11	Brenda Strong	5-20	Ryan and Amy Stevens
5-15	Bentley Goodman (8)	5-21	D. E. and Tiffany Pleasant
5-18	Halbert Smith	5-25	Darren and Denise Crisp
5-20	Gannon Schofield (11)	5-31	R. J. and Sangchun Moyers
5-23	Barbara Luna	Birthdays	
5-28	Ryan Stevens	5-31	Sabra Bryant (8)
5-29	Beth Wade	5-31	Julie Schofield

Vicki will be serving something delicious for our Wednesday night fellowship supper.

Worship is not about my enjoyment. It is about my enjoyment of God. It is not about my pleasure or my delight or my satisfaction. It is about my pleasure, delight, and satisfaction in God. Worship is not simply about glorifying God. It is about glorifying God by enjoying Him forever.

Next Sunday will be Senior Sunday when we celebrate our graduating seniors—Dylan Abraham and Whitney Jarvis.

Mark Your Calendars!
VBS—Saturday
June 13, 2026
Take a trip to
Rainforest Falls!

May Worship Assignments

Welcome & Shepherd's Prayer

5-3 Mark Lane
5-10 David Stevens
5-17 Don Luna
5-24 John Abraham
5-31 Mark Lane

Communion & Closing Prayer

D. E. Pleasant
Tinker Langston
Paul Wade
Jim Kirkland
R. J. Moyers

Song Leader: Titus Smith
Greeters: Tinker and Karen Langston

The Family News

May 3, 2026

Gainesville Church of Christ

PO Box 7, 23550 US Hwy. 160, Gainesville, MO 65655

www.gainesvillechurchofchrist.org

A Place to Call Home

We welcome you and are so glad you could worship with us today.

Schedule of Services

Sunday

9:30 a.m. Bible Classes for All Ages

10:30 a.m. Worship Service: ***Benefits of Worship***

Wednesday

6 p.m. Fellowship Supper

7 p.m. Bible Classes for all ages

Sunday Worship Outline

Welcome and Shepherd's Prayer

Kids Singing up Front

Worship God by Singing Praises

Communion Service

Song before Sermon

Sermon and Invitation

Invitation Song

Closing Song and Prayer

Offering baskets are located at the back.

We are a community of redeemed sinners who are following Jesus Christ, proclaiming the gospel of grace, loving our Lord and one another.

Elders

Mark Lane 417-679-4835
Don Luna 417-712-1945
David Stevens 417-679-4700
John Abraham 870-421-5632

Deacons

Dana Crisp 417-331-5090
James Langston 870-315-4355

Preacher

Halbert Smith 417-257-3880

Ministers: Every Member—Each One of Us