

# Announcements

## Those Seeking Supplications

Bryan Bailey, Sr. \* Linda Bailey \* Dorothy Brasiel \* Jo Byrnes \* Betty Cannon \* Joyce Coones \* Sleatha Gore \* Essielene Henderson \* Ethel Jones \* Faye Kilpatrick \* Randy McElroy \* Gary Ogden \* Robert Smith's family (Jacksonville)

## Group 1 Meeting Tonight @ The Hinds

If you're in Group 1 (the list is on the bulletin board in the foyer) then you are encouraged to meet tonight at the home of **Jamey & Cindy Hinds**. Ask Cindy what you should bring.

## Teacher's Meeting This Afternoon at 4:15

We're meeting today at 4:15 PM in the classroom building. Everyone who is currently teaching, or who will be teaching this year, parents, and anyone interested in participating in this very important discussion is encouraged to meet.

## Group 3: Young People's Group

Is scheduled to meet at the home of **Sammy & Sally Smith**, Saturday, February 21. 4:00 PM is when they are planning to begin. If you're coming, please RSVP with Sammy or Sally.

## Upcoming Gospel Meeting

Trenton congregation \* February 22-27 \* Don Hooton of Montgomery, Texas, preaching. 7:30 PM every night.

## This Week's Birthdays

Diane Watson (Tuesday) \* Cindy Watson (Wednesday)

Chiefland Church of Christ

Meeting at 211 NE 2nd Street in beautiful Chiefland, Florida  
PO Box 2539 \* Chiefland, FL 32644 \* (352) 493-1242

# THINGS ABOVE

"Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth"

—[ Colossians 3:1-2 ]—

FEBRUARY 8, 2009  VOL. 4, No. 47

[www.ChieflandChurchofChrist.com](http://www.ChieflandChurchofChrist.com)

## Do We Have a Groundhog Day Faith?

By Jamey Hinds

Groundhog Day was Tuesday. It reminds me of how superstitious people are when they watch, with genuine expectation, a large rodent come out of the ground to either see or not see its own shadow determining for us whether or not the winter will remain. Groundhog Day signifies that we're stuck in a bad cycle: that what goes around keeps coming around.

As Christians, do we feel stuck in a spiritual rut? *The* Albert Einstein said, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results." Maybe insanity is not the word we'd feel comfortable using, but isn't it sad to

do the same things over and over again and expect different results?

I am not referring to doing the *right* things again and again. Although, I would say that if we do the right things in the *wrong way* — without using our heart, mind, and soul (Matthew 22:37), or without doing them in spirit and truth (John 4:24) — then we *are* wrong. There are traditions that are right for us to keep: “So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to **the traditions** which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us” (2 Thessalonians 2:15).



What I **am** referring to when I ask are we stuck in a spiritual rut is this: Do we sin, then convince ourselves that we’re never going to do that again, then go right back to doing it again?

John affirms, “Everyone who makes a practice of sinning also practices lawlessness; sin is lawlessness [*acting without permission or allowance of the law*]. . . . No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous. Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him, and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God.” (1 John 3:4, 6–9).

This deadly cycle of sin is something we *can* stop if we will turn ourselves over to God by crucifying the flesh! “For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly” (Romans 5:6; and see Acts 26:20).

“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. *We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.* For one who has died has been set free from sin” (Romans 6:3–7).

“For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing” (1 Thessalonians 5:9–11).

Stop the cycle of sin — “Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God’s right hand. Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. And when Christ, who is your life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you” (Colossians 3:1–5 NLT).

