

### Elders

Johnny Davis ..... 307-4232  
\*Dan Fuller..... 685-4454  
Jerry Hopkins ..... 818-7164  
Paul Metzkes..... 870-8042  
Phil Porter ..... 575-4782  
Richard Watson..... 307-2608

\*Chairman for the Month of January

### Evangelists

Dan Jenkins ..... 379-2325  
David Sproule..... 301-2230  
Josh Blackmer ..... 319-1418

### Deacons

Mike Archer ..... 422-2995  
David Brown..... 972-7608  
Novel Brown ..... 848-6988  
Chuck Clark ..... 627-4132  
Victor Colage..... 719-1490  
Lance Collier..... 793-2718  
Kirk Crews ..... 339-9283  
Cam Crotts ..... 214-3114  
Mike Erickson..... 310-9916  
Tim Fry ..... 373-9121  
Jeff Goodale ..... 261-1188  
Rick Hall ..... 622-5131  
Bob Higbee..... 303-386-6405  
Bill Ingram, Jr. .... 772-341-5463  
Gary Jenkins..... 889-3585  
Jeff Leslie..... 744-3444  
Buzz Nelson..... 627-4890  
Nate Nelson ..... 801-9456  
Jerry Pittman..... 389-2935  
Ivan Villard ..... 422-5041  
Kevin Weeks..... 386-4108

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*Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ*

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No. 2



# PBL THEME FOR 2021



By Dan Jenkins

## The Lord Is Testing You

So many know the first and greatest commandment—to love the Lord God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. A vital question to be answered, “Is there any way I can know that I really do love Him like He wants me to love Him? Has God given me any guidelines to measure my love?”

We are so blessed that He has told us. Before Moses repeated the Ten Commandments the second time in Deuteronomy, he told the Jews they should seek the Lord with all their heart and soul (Deut. 4:29). The commandments are found in chapter five and then in chapter six he gives God’s greatest commandment about loving Him above all else (Deut. 6:5). In chapter 13, Moses gives God’s test so the Jews could know if they truly loved God.

He told Israel that the time would come when false prophets and dreamers would arise and seek to lead them away from the will of God. He even described the signs and wonders that might accompany their message. Read his words carefully. “You shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, for the Lord your God is testing you to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.” (Deut. 13:3). Here is the test! God allows the presence of teachers with amazing abilities to come

**How can I know if I love God with all my heart, soul, mind and strength?**

to His people to test them! Our response to keeping His commandments is the visible manifestation of the kind of love we have in our hearts. While we may think we love the Lord and we may feel deeply that we love Him, God gives us this visible test so that we can know!

How serious is God about this? The Jews were instructed to put that teacher to death. His suaveness is described as the way he was enticing them to ignore what God said (Deut. 13:5). How serious was it? Even if the teacher was your brother, your child or your best friend, he was to die! He had secretly brought his ideas to entice you to ignore God. He was to show no pity, nor should provisions be made to spare him or conceal him or his actions (Deut. 13:6-8).

In fact, you were told to cast the first stone to bring about the death of this loved relative or friend and then the nation should do as you had done. You were to continue throwing stones until the one you loved so much was dead (Deut. 13:9-10). Your love for this person must never be greater than your love for God.

In your life you will face this test. Your decision to become a Christian demands you love God more than family or friends. You likely will be confronted by teachers you respect and love. Remember that how you respond in this situation is God’s visible way to measure your love. Do not fail this test!



By David Sproule

## Examining a Prayer to a False God

Much has been said in the last week about the first opening prayer of the 117th Congress, which was led by Congressman (are we still allowed to say, “Congressman”?) Emanuel Cleaver. The focus has been especially on how he closed the prayer by saying, “Amen and awoman.” While those words

are disturbing—expressing an unfamiliarity with the meaning of terms and evidencing an attempt to be culturally relevant—those words were not the most disturbing in the prayer. Consider for a moment what this congressman prayed before those last three words.

The prayer was addressed, in the first two words, to “Eternal God.” That is a great start! There is one who is the Eternal God. The penman of Psalm 90 addressed his prayer: “Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, **Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God**” (90:1-2). When Moses asked the name of the God who was sending him to the children of Israel, the heavenly response was, “**I AM WHO I AM**” (Ex. 3:13-14)—the eternal, existing one! Jehovah (i.e., the “I AM”) revealed, “I am the LORD, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me” (Isa. 45:5). There can be no other God! There is no other God! The prayer began with these two words.

**Hijacked words from the actual Creator’s book about the actual Creator**

The congressman acknowledged in this prayer the “sacred supremacy” of the eternal God and contrasted God’s nature with man’s “fallible nature.” He went on to declare that he was praying to “the God who created the world and everything in it.” Interesting. He was quoting the Bible here. Did he realize it? When Paul addressed the idolatrous Athenians in Acts 17 regarding their idol to “The Unknown God,” he identified for them the “God, who made the world and everything in it,” who is “Lord of heaven and earth” (Acts 17:24). The congressman went on to address his prayer to Jehovah by quoting from the Bible again in Numbers 6:24-26. The prayer up to this point was Biblical and seemingly pointed to Jehovah God.

But, here is the most disturbing part. He closed with these words: “We ask it in the name of the monotheistic god, Brahma, and god known by many names by many different faiths.” A prayer seemingly addressed to Jehovah God (the only true, living, eternal God) then claims authority for such prayer from the Hindu god, Brahma. Among their dozens of types of gods and their millions of separate gods, Brahma is Hinduism’s “Creator God.” The congressman’s prayer hijacked words from the actual Creator’s book about the actual Creator and addressed them to a false god. This ought to disturb us more than any other part of the prayer. Seven times in Isaiah 45, Jehovah told idolatrous Israel, “There is no other” God. May we hear it today!



By Josh Blackmer

## The Elephant Foot Effect

In April 1986, the explosion of reactor four at the Chernobyl powerplant sent a four million pound lid from the reactor core through the roof of the plant and belched out 400 times more radiation than the nuclear blast at Hiroshima. Over 350,000 pounds of uranium melted down and ate through the containment shield. It ate through 6 feet of reinforced concrete. The radioactive lava flowed through basement pipes and pooled in steam corridors until it cooled enough to be stopped in the basement of reactor four. This material, called corium, is some of the most dangerous on the planet, but also very rare. It is only formed in a nuclear meltdown. In December 1986, workers found what has now been dubbed the elephant's foot. It is a two-ton wrinkled mass of corium in the basement of the reactor. It is extremely dangerous. Standing in the room with it for five minutes would lead to a relatively quick death. Thirty seconds near it would cause dizziness and fatigue. Two minutes of exposure and your cells would begin to hemorrhage. Four minutes would cause vomiting, diarrhea, and fever. Five minutes and you would have just days to live. How close can we get to sin?

In any form, sin is deadly. It doesn't matter the size or shape of it. Eve just ate some fruit. She was hungry. She deserved to eat (Gen. 3:6). The problem was she had been com-

manded not to eat of that fruit. All Lot's wife did was look at something the wrong way. She just looked back (Gen. 19:26). Her home was being destroyed, people she knew were dying. Who would blame her? She had been commanded not to look back. All Uzzah did was touch the ark of the covenant (1 Chr. 13:9-10). It looked like it was going to tip, so he steadied the ark. It makes sense. Anybody would do the same thing, right? God had commanded him not to touch it. Sin is deadly. Sin is a breaking of the law in any form (1 John 3:4).

**It contaminates every part of our lives if we stay too close to it.**

We need to be careful. The psalmist wrote about the dangers of walking, standing, and sitting with those that would lead us down the path of sin (Psa. 1:1). Paul, after completing the list of the works of the flesh wrote, "I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Gal. 5:21). People

are always looking for way to get close to the edge, wondering how far is too far. We must draw a line where the Bible does. We can look to no other source as a guide to keep us on the right path. That's why the psalmist wrote, "How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, Nor stand in the path of sinners, Nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night... For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the wicked will perish" (Psa. 1:1-2). We must stay on the right path and stay away from sin.

## Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

### The day doesn't matter, the decision does

It's that time of year when folks make resolutions to begin on the first day of January. Statistics indicate that more than 80% of those resolutions don't stick. (That number is actually lower than I expected.) The reason they don't last is because they are attached to an arbitrary date and not a true decision and commitment to change. Think about that in relationship to Christianity.

Some people delay their baptism until a certain "day" when it's more convenient or family members are in town or when "things aren't so crazy." In such an instance, the commitment is lacking. Some Christians will delay reading through their Bible or creating a prayer list until January 1<sup>st</sup>. Again, why the delay? If there is a decision and a commitment to improve our Christian walk, why delay until an arbitrary day, when it may not even stick then?

What changes do you need to make as a Christian? Why not make this day "the day" that you do that? It's the decision and commitment that matter! You can do that this day! — DS



### Foolishness often parades in words

Sometimes people (that includes us, yes?) say things that they believe will show they are enlightened, a cut above most, and actually relevant to the world. Unfortunately (or maybe it's fortunately), if you listen closely to what these folks say (and listen long enough), their own words will expose them.

This is why Solomon warned, "Do not be rash with your mouth...let your words be few" (Ecc. 5:2). This includes in the presence of God and any time we open our mouths. He went on to say that "a fool's voice is known by his many words" (5:3). Earlier in his life, Solomon wrote, "The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly" (Prov. 15:2). He is able to do that because he has sought, studied, received and understood true "knowledge." However, Solomon continued, "the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness."

When people speak, listen. Consider. Test. Accept and act only upon that which is in harmony with God's Word. And when necessary, expose foolishness using God's light. — DS



# Keep in Your Prayers



## Pray for These PBL Members

<b>Jean Archer</b>	recovering at home and improving
<b>Adrienne Banks</b>	undergoing medical tests
<b>Annie Faison</b>	is not doing well
<b>Patricia Hackshaw</b>	recovering from an outpatient surgery
<b>Charles Hayes</b>	in Bethesda Hospital East
<b>Joan Holloway</b>	Gardens Medical Center with COVID-19
<b>Dan Johnson</b>	back in Gardens Medical Center, undergoing tests
<b>John Loftis</b>	still dealing with severe back pain and weakness
<b>Don Matter</b>	in Gardens Medical Center with COVID-19
<b>Cheryl Milton</b>	dealing with some medical issues
<b>Lydia Quinn</b>	fell and injured her knee
<b>Angie Seames</b>	recovering from surgery on foot, other complications
<b>Willie Smith</b>	having back surgery on February 2
<b>Amber Villard</b>	recovering from outpatient surgery

## Ongoing Health Issues

<b>Lillian Bankston</b>	dialysis treatments
<b>Terri Hahn</b>	leukemia
<b>Inell Ingram</b>	Courtyard Gardens (Jupiter)
<b>Joel Ramirez</b>	dialysis treatments

## Pray for Our Shut-Ins

Millie Ames	Daniel Johnson
Josie Dawson	Don & Betty Matter
Annie Faison	Leigh Puckett
Dianne Frye	Les Sawyer
Margie Hardin	Ricky Smedley
Loretta Holaday	Patricia Ventress
Joe Holland	

## Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

<b>Shelley Dayman</b>	Ally Alberga's sister, nursing home, stage 4 kidney disease
<b>Ronald Fernander</b>	Turkessa Staley's father, still in Lakeside Health Center
<b>Geraldine Marshall</b>	Betty Sanders' sister, in a nursing home with COVID-19
<b>Clara Medina</b>	Carolina Medina's sister, having severe health issues
<b>Rocky Meess</b>	Micky Affron's father, surgery was cancelled





# Church Family Calendar of Events

## Sunday, January 10

- ♦ **House-to-House/Heart-to-Heart Labeling** at 4:30 p.m. in the Family Room. Everyone is encouraged to come and help out.
- ♦ **Youth & Family Singing** after evening worship in the Family Room. Every member is invited to stay and sing for about 35 minutes.

## Monday, January 11

- ♦ **Monday Night Bible Study** at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Room.

## Tuesday, January 12

- ♦ **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** at 10:30 a.m. in the Family Room.

## Sunday, January 17

- ♦ **New 10-Week Classes Begin** at 9:00 a.m. for Jr. High, Sr. High and adults.

## Sunday, January 31

- ♦ **Mission Sunday.** Prepare for it and pray about it. Every dollar given will be used for mission work.
- ♦ **EDP Meeting** at 4:30 p.m. in the Family Room.

## Saturday, February 13

- ♦ **Sweetheart Banquet hosted by the Jr. High Youth.** Begins at 5:00 p.m. PBL members 55+ years old or married 25+ years are invited. RSVP to Sarah Collier or Ivan & Amber Villard.

## Sunday, February 14

- ♦ **Youth & Family Singing** after evening worship in the Family Room. Every member is invited to stay and sing for about 35 minutes.

## Monday, March 1

- ♦ **Men Meet Monday Night** at 7:00 p.m. at the pavilion on the church property. All PBL men in Grades 9 and up are invited. Bring your Bible, a chair, some meat to grill, a drink and your own plate/utensils.

## Wednesday, March 3

- ♦ **Prayer Meeting** to prepare for the Gospel Meeting. Jr. High, Sr. High and adults will meet together in the auditorium after the devotional. Children in Grade 5 and under will have their regular classes.

## Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ Young Adults

### Friday, January 15

- ♦ **Sr. High & YA Ladies' Hangout** at 7:00 p.m. Bring snacks, drinks and your Bible. See Michelle Franck for more details.

### Tuesday, February 2

- ♦ **Young Adult Ladies' Prayer Night** at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Jacqui Jenkins. See Cindy Nelson for details.

### Friday-Monday, February 5-8

- ♦ **Youth & Young Adult Family Camping Trip** at Highlands Hammock State Park. Cost is \$25 per person. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Lobby by January 24. See Josh Blackmer or Ivan Villard for more details.

### Friday, February 12

- ♦ **Sr. High & YA Ladies' Hangout** at 7:00 p.m. Bring snacks, drinks and your Bible. See Michelle Franck for more details.

### Monday, March 1

- ♦ **Men Meet Monday Night** at 7:00 p.m.



## Palm Beach Lakes Youth

### Sunday, January 10

- ♦ **Youth & Family Singing** after evening worship in the Family Room. Every member is invited to stay and sing for about 35 minutes.

### Friday, January 15

- ♦ **Sr. High & YA Ladies' Hangout** at 7:00 p.m. Bring snacks, drinks and your Bible. See Michelle Franck for more details.

### Sunday, January 24

- ♦ **Jr. High & Sr. High Devo** after evening worship. Bring drinks or desserts.

### Friday-Monday, February 5-8

- ♦ **Youth & Young Adult Family Camping Trip** at Highlands Hammock State Park. Cost is \$25 per person. Sign up on the bulletin board in the Lobby by January 24. See Josh Blackmer or Ivan Villard for more details.

### Friday, February 12

- ♦ **Sr. High & YA Ladies' Hangout** at 7:00 p.m.

# 2021 AT PBL





**"...always abounding in the work of the Lord..." (1 Cor. 15:58)**



**Thank You**  
for worshipping with us

Sunday,  
January 3

**LOCAL VISITORS:** Ms. Nancy Bodin; Mr. Ryan Bodin; Ms. Marcia Farrar; Mr. Jesse Hover; Mr. Sean Macdonald; Miss Brenda Pribyl; Ms. Marie Josee Telfort; and Mr. Garfield Walks.

**OUT-OF-TOWN VISITORS:** Mrs. Jacqueline Parker, Ringgold, GA; Mrs. Michelle Post, Chamblee, GA; Mr. & Mrs. Travis & Elizabeth Toye, Davison, MI.

## **Birthdays & Anniversaries** *This Week*

Sunday (January 10th)  
Marjorie Ruiz-Carmona

Monday (January 11th)  
Aisha Commander

Tuesday (January 12th)  
Barbara King

Thursday (January 14th)  
Mary Coombs  
Robin Davis  
Cindy Nelson



**MISSION**  
*Sunday*  
TAKING THE GOSPEL TO THE WORLD

# *January 31*

**Every dollar given will be used for mission work.**

*Be preparing for it! Be praying about it!*

## **Those to Serve**

*If you cannot serve, please call Mike Ellis at 775-3533.*

*If you are scheduled to serve on Sunday morning, please meet at the front of the auditorium at 9:50 a.m.*

*If you are scheduled to serve on Sunday evening, please meet at the front of the auditorium at 5:50 p.m.*

### **Sunday Morning, January 10**

Lead Singing ..... Robert Lupo  
Opening Prayer ..... Gary Jenkins  
Scripture Reading ..... Ricky Smith  
Presiding at Table ..... Rick Hall  
Serve at Table ..... TBD  
Closing Prayer ..... Jeff Goodale

### **Sunday Evening, January 10**

Lead Singing ..... Stephen Beliech  
Opening Prayer ..... Joe Maloney  
Scripture Reading ..... Harrison Crotts  
Presiding at Table ..... Jerry Pittman  
Serve at Table ..... TBD  
Closing Prayer ..... Daniel Wagner

### **Wednesday Evening, January 13**

Lead Singing ..... Josiah Blackmer  
Invitation ..... David Lord  
Family Prayer ..... Jerry Hopkins

## **Our Record**

Attendance	Jan. 3	Dec. Avg
Sun. Bible Study	138	144
Sun. AM Worship	172	197
Sun. PM Worship	118	118
Wed. Bible Study	151	121
Contribution	NA	\$15,792

2021 Weekly Budget: TBA

Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: TBA

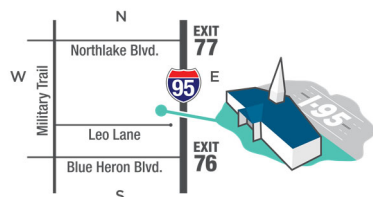
Ushers for this week: Jimmie Banks (Head Usher); Errol Gower-Winter  
Safety Team for this week: Nahum Villard



# Palm Beach Lakes CHURCH OF CHRIST

4067 Leo Lane  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410

*Speaking where the **Bible** speaks, Silent where the **Bible** is silent.*



## Service Schedule

### Sunday:

Bible Classes..... 9:00 a.m.

Worship ..... 10:00 a.m.

Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.

### Wednesday:

Bible classes ..... 7:00 p.m.

Front Cover: **Robert & Reanna Lupo**

# **New Bible Classes** (JAN. 17 — MARCH 24)

## **SUNDAY MORNINGS** at 9:00 A.M.

<b>James</b>	Richard Watson (Auditorium)
<b>Bible Background for a Richer Understanding</b>	David Sproule (Family Room)
<b>Sr. High: Church History</b>	
<b>Jr. High: Letters to the Churches</b>	

## **WEDNESDAY EVENINGS** at 7:00 P.M.

<b>Minor Prophets (Hosea-Jonah)</b>	Josh Blackmer (Auditorium)
<b>Ladies: Hindsight 2020: Processing Emotional Overload</b>	Cara Blackmer (Adult 1-2)
<b>Sr. High: The Pentateuch</b>	
<b>Jr. High: Bible Basics</b>	