

The Sword and Trowel

Church of Christ at Grissom
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We intend to build and defend: *“As for the builders, everyone had his sword girded by his side and so builded.”* Nehemiah 4:18

Booze and Bongs

“Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.” Proverbs 14:34 (NKJV)

I was in my hometown about a month ago. While there, I was able to talk to some of the people in town. Some of them own businesses. One of them is the town administrator. All of them were excited about the future plans for the community. There were a couple of items in particular that were creating the most excitement. The first was a microbrewery that is coming to town. The second was the possibility of a marijuana dispensary coming just outside of town. It will be on the ballot in November.

People were excited about these developments for a number of reasons. Some are looking forward to indulging in what will be produced in the microbrewery. Most were excited about the potential revenue that would be generated by both the microbrewery and the marijuana dispensary. They were hopeful that it will bring more sales to the existing businesses in town.

The town administrator was happy about the possibility of a marijuana dispensary for a couple of reasons. First, she said that the town council was more united than ever since they are all in favor of it. Second, she was expecting that it would bring enough money to the community to pay for a police force.

That second reason caught my attention in particular. The reason for it is that there was a third story that had the town buzzing. Just a few days before my visit a man had been arrested for walking around town naked. It turns out that he was high on drugs. Does this surprise you? It did not surprise me. The police searched his home and garage and found more drugs.

It seems that two of the main reasons that small towns like this need a police force are drugs and alcohol. Perhaps there would be no need for a police force if there were not drugs and alcohol in the town. Instead, the plan is to bring more of them into town in hopes of paying for a police force. This seems both inconsistent and counterproductive to me.

Sadly, the use of various vices to bring in revenue or increased business to a community is nothing new. A number of states have legalized various forms of gambling by promising prosperity to its citizens. Some places have legalized prostitution by arguing that it is going to happen anyway – we may as well tax it and regulate it.

Everybody values the money that these vices bring to the government and local businesses. But it seems that nobody considers the cost to the morals of the community. What effect will these things have on the children in the town? Who considers the cost to the souls in the community? I will say that there is one preacher in town who is opposed to the marijuana dispensary. I hope that he is not alone, but I did not hear about anyone else who joined him.

The Lord blesses those who practice righteousness. Those who embrace sin bring reproach on themselves and their communities.

Terry Carter, Evangelist

COMING EVENTS

- August 29 King's Kids – 7:00 P.M.
- September 8 Ladies' Bible study & day out at the Crystal Tea Room. The tea is at 12 noon. There is a sign-up sheet on the ladies' board. The cost is \$20 per person. See Jennifer Worley or Lisa Carter for more information.
- September 9 Youth for Truth Final Meeting -- 4:30 P.M. See Ray if you are willing to help.
- September 14-15 Leadership Seminar at the Wabash Church of Christ with Josh Fennell & Terry Carter instructing. See bulletin board for more information.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Bill Friend & family (another nephew passed after falling from a scaffold)
 Sean Ramer (PTL: blood clots completely gone)
 Heather Bowman (Frieda's daughter)
 Summit School of Preaching
 Jordan & Anna Lynch (preparing for move & her pregnancy)
 Christians around the world being persecuted
 Mary Copp/ George Thurston (comfort)
 Bonnie Barnhill (deployed to Africa for 7 months)
 David Scott family (his passing)
 Mark Whitsett (paralyzed from accident & for salvation)
 PTL: Joanna Ramer's step-mother's home spared)

George Faul
 Larrie Petty (migraines)
 Donna Hower
 Chris Ponchot (Roann church) – spiritual issues
 Reyna Christensen & Crystal Cain
 Jeff VanCuren (continued recovery)
 Kendall Faul (life situations)
 Walt Teachout
 ladies' Bible Study
 our widows & widowers
 Frieda Bowman (to sell house)

Proverb for the Week:

Meditate on this Proverb:

10:2: Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, but righteousness delivereth from death.

SERVICES

Sunday School	9:00
A.M.Church	10:00
Men's Praye3r Meeting	5:30
Women's Prayer Meeting	5:30
P.M.Evangelistic Hour	6:00
Wednesday P.M.	7:00

The Greatness of God

God made more sky than I can see,
 More sea than I can sail,
 More stars than I can scale,
 More breath than I can breathe,
 More field than I can sow,
 More grace than I can comprehend,
 More love than I can know.

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ATTENDANCE

Sunday School	55
A.M.Church	89
P.M.Evangelistic Service	68/
Tithes & Offerings	\$3,167
Wednesday Evening	40