

Those to Serve

(B) Doug Pruett
(FV) Keith Stifflemire
(O) Jorge Garza
(A) James Lovell
1st prayer Judd Wall
2nd prayer Mike Mehaffey
Announcements: Jack Wall
Singing: Kevin Grant

February 14th

Valentine's Day

February 16th

President's Day

February 22nd

Noon Fellowship

March 1st

Mission Sunday

March 7th

Men's Breakfast at the Diner

March 8th

Daylight Savings Begins

March 17th

St. Patrick's Day

Happy Anniversary

February 14th

Vernon & Linda Houts

Happy Birthday

Lindy Burks Feb. 14th

Corey Tackett Feb. 20th

Eloisa Garza March 2nd

Rachel Flores March 3rd

Mattie Tackett March 12th

Prayer List:

Addison Flores
Valerie Garza
Virgina Lovell
Vernon Houts
Wanda Kitchens
Jorge Garza
Pray for our Nation
Our Troops
Law Enforcement
Rescue Personnel



Sterling McDonald will be with us on March 22nd to talk with us about Camp

Red Oak Springs church camp in Newton, TX . Corey and Mattie have been a part of the church camp for several years.

Sterling McDonald is the director for Session 3 and also President of the Board of the camp.



SOUTHWEST
SCHOOL OF BIBLE STUDIES

Matt Gibson with Southwest School of Bible Studies will be with us on February 22nd to give a presentation on Southwest School of Bible Studies.

Please keep George and Valerie Garza in your prayers.

George will undergo medical testing on Feb.17th, and Valerie is scheduled for a heart defibrillation procedure on Feb. 25th.

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

310 W Brooks Drive

Evant, TX 76525

254-471-5705

February 15, 2026



Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."

Sunday Worship:

Corey Tackett, Preacher

9:30 am Bible Study

903-851-1094

10:20 am Worship

Email: corey.tackett96@gmail.com

12:30 pm Afternoon

www.evantchurchofchrist.org

Wednesday Night

6:00 pm

Two Churches Want to Grow

Two churches want to grow, but their attitudes toward growth differ greatly.

The first church looks upon growth as its primary purpose. Goals are placed before the membership: "We want to double our membership within the next three years," for instance. Success (or failure) is judged almost entirely on the basis of that congregation's numerical growth.

The second church looks upon the saving of souls as its primary purpose, and any growth in membership is just a natural result of that primary purpose. Members of the second church are infused with the value of immortal souls rather than with a sense of congregational pride.

Members of the first church become eager to get people to the water. Baptism is the point at which individuals are added to the membership list; consequently, it will take many baptisms to keep pace with their goal of doubling their membership. They must not only bring them to the water, but also do so within the time period arbitrarily set by their leaders.

Members of the second church are far more eager to encourage repentance. Their concern is for additions to the Lord's body rather than additions to a membership list. Their approach is to bring sinners to a consciousness of their sin and the consequences of remaining in sin. If they can do this in a single study, excellent. But if considerable time is required to uproot false concepts and to plant the true seed of the gospel, they patiently accept this. Their only sense of urgency arises from the uncertainty of life and its duration. But they know that shortcuts are not the answer; that baptism without repentance is worthless; and that once people are brought to true repentance, having been properly taught, baptism for the remission of sins will follow. So they wait with longsuffering until the gospel brings about its desired effect in the hearts of those whom they are teaching.

Members of the first church may be tempted to employ questionable tactics in their interactions with others. The old methods and approaches don't seem to be effective anymore. New, more positive approaches must be developed. Thus, the members of the first church appeal to the pride of the people. They persuade them of their self-worth; they build their self-image; they tell them how valuable they would be to the congregation. "We need you," they tell their prospects. They might also extol the virtues of the congregation, persuading their prospects of the value

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Two Churches Want to Grow

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of being part of such a vibrant, growing group. People "become members" and conform to the rules imposed for acceptance within the group, but there may have been little grief over sin; in fact, they might still believe they were Christians before they "became members."

The members of the second church recognize that the gospel never appeals to human pride. They bring people to see their spiritual bankruptcy; that they have "nothing to pay" that their true worth is not to be found in self, but in Christ; that they must humble themselves and look to Christ for their exaltation; that they are sinners in desperate need of salvation; that their only hope is to be found in Christ. They would bring them to say, in the words of Mrs. C. H. Morris:

"Nearer, still nearer, nothing I bring,
Naught as an offering to Jesus my King,
Only my sinful, now contrite heart;
Grant me the cleansing Thy blood doth impart."

The first church may become compromising in its teaching. Its elders intend to maintain doctrinal soundness, but there is pressure to produce and to maintain the growth rate set before the congregation. When doctrinal soundness becomes an obstacle to that purpose, the elders may succumb to the pressures and ease up on their teaching. The second church faces no such pressure, for in its concern for the spiritual well-being of people, there is a desire for truth on every subject vital to salvation.

The first church emphasizes organizational and institutional concerns; the second emphasizes spiritual and heavenly ones.

We commend the second church to our readers. Serious problems can result when churches see growth as their primary purpose. If goals are to be set—and goals can serve a good purpose—let them focus on the number to be taught rather than the number to be baptized. If new approaches are needed, let them be conceived only if they are compatible with God's wisdom. In efforts to reach others, let all determine to know nothing "except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." When churches thus become really serious about saving souls, God will give the increase, and growth will take care of itself

By Bill Hall