

# The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

Nov 26, 2017



## 7 Things Not To Say To The GRIEVING

written by Steve Higginbotham  
[www.preachinghelp.org](http://www.preachinghelp.org)  
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My family and I just recently suffered the loss of my dad. During the days following his death, we were comforted by all the kind words that were spoken in an effort to encourage us. But not everyone has the same experience. I've stood at the head of many caskets through the years and I've heard many comments made to grieving families that made me cringe. Like Job's friends, they would have served as better comforters if they would have

*This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).*

**VISITORS,  
WELCOME!**

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

1:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes  
for all ages & fellowship  
for lunch every Sunday!

P.O. Box 321

2008 Hwy. 306

(1.2 miles east of I-55)

Coldwater, MS 38618

(662) 622-7951

[emailus@coldwatercofc.com](mailto:emailus@coldwatercofc.com)

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

### ELDERS

Billy Bland

Seth Daniel

Jim Jackson

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

### DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Joe Owen Andy Ratliff

Tim Wilkes, II

### PREACHER

Clifton Angel

just remained silent.

This post is designed to simply offer some suggestions that may allow us to comfort the grieving, rather than adding unnecessary pain to their grief. Below are 7 things not to say to those who are grieving.

1. **I understand exactly how you feel.** You cannot know that to be true. The fact that you may have suffered the same relational loss, doesn't mean the depth of your loss is the same. Simply saying, "I'm sorry" is a lot more honest than, "I understand exactly how you feel."
2. **It was God's will.** We should not affirm what we do not know. Some things in life happen by chance; at least that's what Jesus said (Luke 10:31).
3. **God must have needed another angel in heaven.** First of all, people don't become angels when they die. Second, to suggest that God took this person from his children/parents/spouse because he needed him paints God with a rather selfish stroke and can lead to resentment. Why would God need this person more than his family needed him?
4. **Now, now, don't cry.** Why not? Why would we encourage a person to suppress their grief. Crying is not only a human response to grief, but it's healthy.
5. **If you need anything, just let me know.** This is really an empty

statement that may salve our conscience, but does little to help a person. Rarely will a person volunteer a need to such a statement. A more useful statement would be, "What do you want me to do to help?" or "Would you rather have me do this or that for you?"

6. **At least you're young and can have more children/or marry again.** As insensitive as this sounds, I've heard it said to grieving parents on numerous occasions. We're not talking about the loss of a family pet that can be replaced, but an irreplaceable member of the family.
7. **It's better this way.** Says who? To many survivors, the sacrifices they would be required to make would be well worth it if they could have their loved one back.

Please do your best to avoid these empty and potentially hurtful comments. If you struggle for words to say, then may I suggest the following.

1. I'm sorry.
2. I'm praying for you.
3. I love you.

Your words aren't going to "fix" anything, so don't try. They should simply be spoken to express your love and concern. May we learn to comfort others the way that God comforts us (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

# NEWS & NOTES

## Please Pray

**Sutton family**, Milba died Thursday; **Wadsworth family**, Russell's mom died Wednesday; **Jared Brown**, injured back in training; **Seth Daniel**; **Wiley Tuggle & family**; **Several** traveling; **Clarence & Faye Edwards**.

**Far East Missions | Fishers of Men | NetCasters**

### Family & Friends

**Marci Cox**, Dana's cousin, paraplegic and had to have surgery after a recent fall; **Jeff Brister**, Ruth's brother-in-law, several arteries with blockages, one operation completed, more to go; **Carolyn Odom & family**, Inez's niece whose husband died; **Fernando Casacuberta**, Jared's friend, diagnosed with MS; **Macadden Easley**; **Robbie Patterson**, Terry Bland's sister; **Lyla Childers**; **Faye Lipford**, Ruth's cousin, cancer; **Lee Davis**; **Joy Angel**; **Matt Brooks**, stationed in Qatar; **Iris Casteel**; **Judy Dowelling**; **Ray Maples**; **Becky Latimer**; **Kristie Deffenbaugh**; **Raleigh Wood**; **Carole Livsey**; **Lisa Hogan**; **Ava Roten**; **Sharon Brewer**; **Mac Owen**; **Rhonda Cook**; **Wanda Coats**; **Tammy Powell**; **Lawton O'Brien**; **Beverly Whitecotton**; **Peggy Hunt**; **Jason Spencer**; **Elizabeth Baker**; **Janie Brister**; **Amanda Cummings**; **Danielle Key**; **Frankie Burfield**; **Renee Loya**; **Martha Hatfield**.

### Birthdays

11/5	Rachel Wilkes
11/13	Danni Strickland
11/16	Billie Martin
11/18	Tim Wilkes Sr.
11/25	Wiley Tuggle
11/25	GINNA Honeycutt
11/26	Virginia Sowell

### Anniversaries

11/8	Jeremy & Mindy Moore
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## Get Involved!

**Next Quarter Teachers' Meeting — TODAY**

To discuss Apologetics Press curriculum

**Coldwater Singing Night — Nov 29 — 7 PM**

Song requests in green box, or to Clifton ASAP!

**Sunday Afternoon for the Savior — Dec 3**

Between services

**Providence Place Devo — Dec 10 — 2 PM**

**Youth Devo & Christmas Party — Dec 16, 6 PM**

## Privileged to Serve

Sunday, November 26

### Morning

Prayer Before Class	Tim Meredith
Announcements	Jerry Davis
Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Daniel Owen
	Dalton Owen
Assist	Jerry Davis
	Davis Johnson
Opening Prayer	Jeffrey Ferrell
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Russell Wadsworth

### Afternoon

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Opening Prayer	John Wofford
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Jerry Davis
	Davis Johnson
Closing Prayer	Jason Bayless

Wednesday, November 29

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Prayer	Marc Strickland
Invitation	Clifton Angel
Prayer	Joe Owen

TECH:	Will Brooks
HALL:	Jason & Ginger Bayless