Kelham Korner

KELHAM BAPTIST CHURCH
3400 North Meridian
Mail: P.O. Box 12605
Oklahoma City, OK 73157
(405) 946-9826
kelham.org

Wednesday, December 10, 2025

Prayer — God Is Faithful

Newer Requests
Joan Cox—fall and recuperation
Wanda Hixon's daughter, Linda—heart
Deb Meek's brother, Dave, recuperation
Pastor Ezra Jin Mingri, China (persecution)
Persecuted believers in Nigeria
Claudia Montgomery—Treatment
Bob Sapp family—bereavement

Ongoing Prayer Needs
Glenda & Tom Anderson—health & well-being
Beverly & Mike Beardain—health/memory
Shelley & Allen Cloud—health
Joan Cox—health, feet
Bette Fehrle—health
Gary Goree & Judy—health
Mark Handley's son Joshua & his brother, Tracy
Wayne Hendricks—strength and healing
Mitzi Hembree—Hospice care
Margaret Keillor, wife of pastor's friend—*cancer*
Littleton family—*unspoken*
Chris McEver
Tom Montgomery & wife in FL (Bob's brother)
Pam & Ron Sherrod
Al Vass—continued recuperation
Sawyer Vincent—Danny and Tina's grandson—health
Becca Rocco's sister-in-law, Kathy Ketter
Del Wilburn (Kathy Rattan's father)—*declining health*
Pray for the peace of Jerusalem
Persecuted Christians around the world
Military
Heather Riggins; Floyd & Twila Howard's grandson;
Colton Montgomery; Takoda Macias

Our Homebound
Sam Castleberry (*Legends at Jefferson Gardens, Edmond*)
Lloyd and Joan Dickerson (*Burleson, TX*)
Donna Shick, Carol Kimberlin's mother (*Grace, Bethany*)
Justine Hoel (*Bellevue, Room 446A*)

Our College Students & Graduates
Kids at school
Hallie Benedict—Wichita State University
Madi Montgomery—Wichita State University
Donavon Pietzsch—North Texas State University
Mieka Pietzsch—University of Oklahoma
Kaylie & Mikah Rocco, Harper Montgomery,
NE Oklahoma State, Friends University
For addresses and phone numbers call the office.

*"The effectual fervent prayer of a
righteous man availeth much" (James 5:13)*

December Birthdays
10 Al Vass
14 Julia Huntley
    Charlye K. McMichael
18 Shannan Magden
20 Heather McEver Riggins
24 Linda May
28 Wayne Hendricks

TOGETHER

Lottie Moon Offering
Church Goal: $5,000

Stewardship for Morning	12/07/2025
Weekly Budget Required:	$3,894.57
Budget Receipts:	$3,995.00
Over/Under:	$100.43
T.A.B.:	$20.00
Lottie Moon Christmas Offering:	$175.00
OCC Postage:	$50.00

Our prayers and deepest
Christian sympathy are
with Scott Sapp and his
sister Kelli Metz and their
families in their father Bob's homegoing.
Bob Sapp Memorial Service
Wednesday,
December 10, at 10 AM.

Guess Who!

Here are three "oldies" from the choir
Christmas party in the home of Bill and
Eda Beth Ware from 2019.
(Left—Claud and Verda Holland;
bottom left—Bob (GrandBob) Mont-
gomery; bottom—Justine Hoel, Verla
and Mac McKissack, and Janie Allen.

AI Preaching?

AI, or "artificial intelligence," fills the media. Over the weekend I read a story on how preachers are using AI in sermon preparation and sent it to two of my Christian friends, a lawyer and a retired schoolteacher. We regularly share messages of encouragement from the Bible each morning. The teacher responded to the story, under which I posted the comment "I am missing out," with a simple "No." The lawyer shared this message: "AI—great tool especially when used with AI—actual intelligence, i.e., wisdom." I thought that was insightful. I have used what I would call "actual AI" for only one thing —I asked ChapGPT to create a logos for KBC. The result, which I edited and tweaked in Photoshop, has been on our bulletin for about two months. It's not great, but it was simple and free.

The "2025 State of AI in the Church Survey Report" (*https://exponential.org/product/ai-in-the-church-2025/*) surveyed "594 church leaders" across various denominations and "reveals ChatGPT topping the list at 26% usage, followed closely by Grammarly for polishing prose" (*https://americafirstreport.com/ai-hits-the-sermon-circuit-as-pastors-increasingly-rely-on-the-false-god-of-technology/*). According to the article, "daily or weekly AI engagement has climbed to 61% among pastors." Exponential AI NEXT revealed their findings show "91% of leaders now back AI in ministry." Barna Group's poll in 2023 "showed most Christians rejecting the idea that AI fits the sanctuary, with over half saying they'd be disappointed if their church plugged in." Doukas noted, "Fast-forward two years, and that resistance has softened, but not vanished."

Ken Hamm of Answers in Genesis observed that a trans-identifying Reddit user posted about sadness and asked for ChapGPT to "write a 'fake Bible passage about Jesus accepting trans people'" (*https://answersingenesis.org/technology/chatgpt-generates-bible-verse/*). The response ChatGPT generated was this:

"And a woman, whose heart was divided between spirit and body, came before him. In quiet despair, she asked, 'Lord, I come to you estranged, for my spirit and body are not one. How shall I hope to enter the kingdom of God?'

Jesus looked upon her with kindness, replying, 'my child, blessed are those who strive for unity within themselves, for they shall know the deepest truths of my Father's creation. Be not afraid, for in the kingdom of God, there is no man nor woman, as all are one in spirit. The gates of my Father's kingdom will open for those who love and are loved, for God looks not upon the body, but the heart."

Hamm went on to share several *real* Bible passages about God's universal invitation to grace, including John 3:16, which says, "Whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 10:9 says, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." "Any man" in that verse in Greek does not refer to gender at all. It translates the Greek indefinite pronoun τις, which means "anyone." Hamm noted the person who asked the question said, "'I know it's not real, but it gave me some comfort.'"

Hamm concluded, "False comfort comes from creating a god in your own image who likes and accepts what you like and accept as well as hates and rejects what you also hate and reject. But that god is a false god who may provide some temporary comfort while leading you straight into an eternity separated from the one true God." Paul referred to this in 2 Timothy 4:3-4: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables."

Many others have weighed in opposing AI in sermon preparation. John Piper googled the definition of AI (he joked, "Using AI to define AI") and got this answer: "Artificial intelligence is a technology that enables computers and machines to simulate human learning, comprehension, problem-solving, decision-making, creativity, and autonomy," adding that what's significantly missing is emotion, a crucial aspect of the threefold composition of the human soul—mind, will, and emotion. It would be impossible for any AI to worship. Piper called using ChatGPT for sermon writing—even for a first draft—wicked and appalling (*https://churchleaders.com/news/506405-john-piper-is-appalled-by-the-thought-of-using-ai-to-draft-a-sermon.html/2*). Piper elucidated that "one of the chief qualifications of a pastor is to 'have the ability, the gift, to read a passage of Scripture, understand the reality it deals with, feel the emotions it is meant to elicit, be able to explain it to others clearly, illustrate and apply it for their edification." John Dube laid out several more reasons pastors should not use AI for sermon or lesson preparation. First, sermon preparation is "an opportunity to worship the Lord" (*https://blog.tms.edu/dont-be-an-artificial-preacher*). Second, sermon preparation is sanctification. As a pastor prepares a sermon, God speaks to him through the text and exposes him "to the best means of spiritual growth" in his life, the Word of God. Third, sermon preparation is "a work of service to our God." Fourth, he explained, sermon preparation is "state-of-the-art." AI uses *previously collected* information—"it's incapable of making a new point." A sermon is "uniquely created through the enablement of the Holy Spirit to minister to the people of God in our specific context."

For me, those things are significant. I daresay I worship the Lord far more deeply as I study than in worship services. A fellow pastor in Ohio years ago echoed my own heart when he said, I am thankful God has called me to do what I do because I probably would not have the discipline to do it otherwise. Having to preach and teach the Word keeps me in the Word and the Word in me. Often I find that blessed gems of divine truth fall on me when I least expect them. God could have used angels to preach His message. They would have been far superior to ChatGPT; yet He did not. He chose men. Paul wrote, "It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" (1 Cor. 1:21). I am blessed and thankful to be among that group.

Brother Gary