

Two simple, Daily Things You can do to Change the World by Jack Wilkie

Continued from page one... Saying these things and genuinely believing them is often taken as offensive, but without a willingness to give necessary offense, lies rule the day. We don't have to show up to every battle placed in front of us – sometimes it's wise to sidestep it and live to fight another day. But there are opportunities to say "This is ridiculous," and "Of course that's not true." There are plenty of people around us who see the absurdity. Speaking up gives them the knowledge that they aren't alone in seeing that the Emperor has no clothes on, or that the [record-setting female Jeopardy champion](#) isn't actually female at all. Sure, we shouldn't aim to be offensive. Just tell the truth in love and let happen what may.

Be human. We can work from home, "watch church" from home, spend our free time on social media or gaming, have food and groceries delivered in, have our relationships come through a screen... all things which aren't fully wrong in and of themselves, but when combined start to slowly drain us of our humanity day by day as we lose real human connection. It's very hard to "love one another" through the phone or computer screen. Life was meant to be shared together. We are not islands unto ourselves. When commanded to "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2), that necessarily implies putting the time and care in to know what burdens others are bearing, and being vulnerable enough to share our burdens as well. The more divided and atomized we become, the less human we become toward one another. Shake a hand, share a meal, talk with somebody face to face. Be human. It really is as simple as that. If Christians will commit to tell the truth in love, even when it's unpopular, and to be human with one another, even when it's inconvenient or even looked down on, we can change the world with the love of Christ and His design for our humanity.



Brushy church of Christ
774 Hwy 48 South
Centerville TN 37033



The Brushy Beacon

January 16, 2022

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:00
Sunday Morning Service	10:00
Sunday Evening Service	6:00
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00

The church of Christ at Brushy

Elders	Deacons
Ricky Atkinson	Paul Johnston Terry Banks
James Atkinson	Kevin Johnston Justin Atkinson
Tony Duncan	Caleb Truett

Preacher: Kevin Johnston

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A few years ago the dystopian genre enjoyed a resurgence with hit books (and later movie/TV adaptations) like *The Hunger Games*, *The Handmaid's Tale*, and *Divergent*. Alongside predecessors in the genre like *1984*, *Brave New World*, *Fahrenheit 451*, and *Anthem*, the books depict a world in which everything has gone terribly wrong. In such settings, societal norms have collapsed and widespread suffering and oppression rule the day. Two common features of the worlds these novels depict are the inability to speak the truth, and the slow drift into losing our humanity. Obvious facts have to be subverted, and soulless conformity is forced on everyone. Even children's stories like *The Emperor's New Clothes* and the Pixar movie *Wall-E* utilize these plot lines to show a bleak world. Looking at recent history, it's starting to get uncomfortable how real such tropes are becoming. We live in a world where medical professionals will declare "men can get pregnant." Talk of the "Metaverse" and moving our lives almost entirely online continues to gain steam. As Christians, it should make perfect sense to us that such fictional hopeless futures stand in direct contrast to life under God's rule. Christianity would not exist without a Savior and His disciples committing themselves so wholly to the truth that they would stand for it even when it meant torture and death (Acts 4:20). Christianity also emphasizes a life together in Christ built on "what every joint supplies" (Ephesians 4:16), relying on each other and living for our King in such a way that we realize the fullest purpose of our humanity. So, as we look at a world sliding in the opposite direction, it is only by doing what Christians have always done that we can do our part to push things back in the right direction. These two simple steps you can take each day are things anyone can do, but it's vital that you and I commit to regularly doing them.

Tell the truth There's a high motivation to quiet down and keep uncomfortable truths to ourselves. At times I've even advocated for such in hopes that it would stem the tide of our growing societal division. But to be silent in the face of untruths is to help build the future where truths can't be spoken at all. To hold our tongues is to be complicit in the lies, and such lies are all around us. Tell the truth when you hear them, for that's the only way forward. A "fetus" is a human life. Men are men and women are women, and those are the only two genders. The vaccinated spread the virus, too. Marriage was intended for one man and one woman, for life. Free speech does not end where someone's feelings start. All religions are not equal, because Jesus walked out of the tomb. All who are outside of Christ are not saved. 2+2 is still 4. Continued on page 4...



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Visitors If you are visiting with us today, we want to hear from you. We are thankful for your presence. Please fill out a Visitor card and leave it in your seat.



Welcome Baby Dustin! Congratulations to Dean and Cecily Nunes on the birth of Dustin James Nunes. He was born on January 13, 2022. He weighed 7 lbs and 9 ozs and is 20 inches long. The proud grandparents are Jim and Pamela Brooks, Ronnie Nunes, and Patsy Karkazis.

Singing Class We are excited that Frank Bradford will be coming once a month to work with our young people on leading singing and learning to read music. He will begin on Jan. 19.

Meal Ministry If you love to cook and are interested in helping with meals, this is the ministry for you! The list of those who will be participating will be updated for 2022. If you are interested in serving, please let Kim Atkinson know. If you have been serving and feel you need to remove your name, please let her know that as well. We will meet on Sunday, January 23, following the morning worship service to discuss the ministry going forward.

***Also**, anyone is welcome to take someone a meal on their own, but please check with Kim Atkinson before hand to make sure we do not double up on meals. We appreciate her ability and willingness to organize meals and keep this ministry going!

Planning Session We will have a planning session for February – August 2022 on Sunday, January 23, following the Evening Worship Service. Please be thinking of ideas and activities that will help us to grow closer together and reach out into the community as well. There will not be a meal just the planning session.

Special 5th Sunday We are looking forward to hearing Larry Murdock speak on Sunday, January 30. Larry helps to spread the gospel to the world through his work with the Voice of Truth Radio Program. We will have a fellowship meal (meal provided) and an early Evening Worship Service. We hope you will be inviting, praying, and planning to attend. The following are his topics:

- 9 A.M. Bible Class: *Voice of Truth Presentation*
- 10 A.M. Worship: *Who Has Believed Our Report?*
- 1 P.M. Worship: *Never See Death*

You're Invited to the ... Congregation Appreciation Dinner on Sunday, January 30! We look forward to this time every year where we get to honor our members! This year you will get a meal from the Atkinson's, Duncan's, Johnston's, Truett's, and Bank's families. We hope you will make plans to attend and enjoy this special time of fellowship. We have a wonderful meal planned to honor you and all you do for the church at Brushy and the community!

Youth Bowling Trip All are invited to go bowling on Sunday, January 30, following the early afternoon service. There will be more details to follow soon. We need to know how many are interested in going. There is a signup sheet on the table in the back for those interested.

A Happy Birthday to... Dean Nunes...January 16 Paige Truett...January 19
Maelynn Campbell...January 19 Annis Womack...January 20 Ricky Atkinson...January 22

Pray for Those Sick Among Us...

David Love continues to recover after shoulder surgery.
Carl Bryant is in Maury Regional Hospital/struggling to get ozygen levels .
Randall, Anita, & Matthew Quillen are all recovering at home with Covid.
Walter Gilbert is waiting to hear from the doctor and will have a scope run soon.
Dorothy Brown mother of Tammy Forrester, is taking radiation treatments.
Travis Irwin is continuing treatments and will have another CT Scan on January 24.
Soleil Duncan daughter in law of Tony & Cathy, is taking chemotherapy treatments.
Brandon Payeur friend of Jim & Pamela's, is taking radiation treatments/is the same.
Keith Herrington Jim's Brother-in-law, will have surgery on February 16.
Glen Herrington brother-in-law of Becky (Jim's Sister), is the same.
Norma Mangonan mother of Louise & Jim's daughter in law, has stage 4 cancer & is in hospice care.
Jack Colvett brother of Nancy is very sick with Covid.
Michael McCann husband of Nancy Bryant's Coworker, has been diagnosed with leukemia.
Malachi Colvett nephew of Nancy Bryant, is sick and is awaiting tests results.

Continuing Prayer Requests

<u>Dealing w/Cancer</u>		<u>Special Request</u>		
Daniel Spears	David Dansby	Scottie Simmons	Dwayne Johnston	Jeff Lynn
Wendy Pace	Aaron Bell	Deborah Brazil	Fred Bowman	William Kirby
Ricky Kelley		Ryan Horton	LC Bowen	Salvadore Barbalinardo

Pray for Those in Nursing Homes

Dickson Nursing Home... Larry Donaldson Lewis County Nursing Home: Lee Freese
Centerville Life Care Center... Alma Jean Skelton

- All in the military and civil workers overseas and their families right.
- All those Preaching and teaching the Good News all over the world.
- Our Government Leaders – Local, State, and National (1 Timothy 2:1-2).
- Our Elders and Deacons who oversee, care for, serve, and feed us spiritually.

Upcoming Events

- *Sunday, January 23 ~ Planning Session Following the Evening Worship Service
- *Sunday, January 30 ~ Special 5th Sunday with Larry Murdock/Appreciation Dinner
- *Sunday, January 30 ~ Youth Bowling Trip – More Details to Follow Soon

For the Record ...

Sunday Morning Bible Class	45	Sunday Morning Worship	57
Sunday Evening Worship	34	Wednesday Evening Bible Study	XX
Contribution		\$1792	

Proverbs 11:24-25 "One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want. Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered"