

**Prayer List of the Sick and Afflicted:**

Liz Sturgill continues to have dialysis treatments at Spencer three times a week.  
Ray Sturgill's brother Darryl continues to recover from foot sores.  
John Richardson has been suffering from gallstones.  
Virginia McKinney is still experiencing some balance and hip problems. She had a monitor implanted to help determine if there are issues with her heart.  
Karen Sproles had another cancerous growth removed successfully. She continues to receive steroid injections in her knee.  
Karen Sproles' daughter, Jean England is scheduled for surgery on May 4<sup>th</sup> for colon cancer.  
Shannon Jones, daughter of Linda and Randall, is still undergoing chemotherapy.  
Pray for those who suffered loss during the recent tornados, those responding to their needs and especially, the families of those who lost their lives.

**Pray For Our Shut-ins:**

Gloria Hale, Karen Sproles, Iris Hash, Virginia McKinney, John and Terry Richardson

**Pray For The Mission Works We Are Supporting:**

John Grubb (Mission work in Asia), Daniel Goshorn and family (Mission work in Peru)

**Ladies' Bible Class Resumed:**

The ladies' Bible class has resumed and meets on Thursdays at 11:00 AM.

**Disaster Relief:**

The men recently agreed to send a donation of \$1000 to the Rolling Fork, MS Church of Christ to assist with disaster relief from the recent tornadoes there.

**Monthly Pitch-in Dinner:**

Our next monthly pitch-in dinner will be held Sunday, May 7<sup>th</sup> following the morning services. Following the meal, we will reconvene at 1:00 PM for an afternoon song service.

**Men's Business Meeting:**

The next men's monthly business meeting will be Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:00 PM.

**2023 Spring Gospel Meeting:**

A Spring meeting will be held May 19-21 with brother Ben Vick of the Shelbyville Rd. Church of Christ in Indianapolis. Flyers for the May meeting are on the table in the back of the auditorium. Please take them and send to family and friends.

**Radio Program:**

Please remember to tune in every Sunday morning at 8:00 AM to WCBK 102.3 FM to hear our radio program which is entitled: "Preparing For Eternity".

**God's Plan For Our Salvation**

Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).  
Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).  
Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).  
Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).  
Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).  
Faithful Christian Living, after the above five steps (I Peter 2:11, 12; Rev. 2:10).

April 23, 2023

***MORGAN STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST***

**540 E. Morgan Street  
Martinsville, IN 46151  
(765) 342-6027**



**Schedule of Services:**

**Sunday**

Bible Study – 9:30 AM  
Worship – 10:30 AM  
Evening Service - 6:00

**Wednesday**

Bible Study – 6:00 PM

**Thursday**

Ladies' Bible Study – 11:00 AM (March through October)

**Radio Program:**

"Preparing For Eternity"  
Sunday Mornings 8:00 AM, WCBK 102.3 FM

**Website:**

[www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org](http://www.morganstreetchurchofchrist.org)

Gospel Preacher – Bob Hawkins

## A Question For Atheists

### “IS THE UNIVERSE AN ACCIDENT?”

Jon Gary Williams

It is so uplifting and encouraging to believe in an eternal God and to trust in Him.

Years ago while traveling by train from Dallas to Houston, I became acquainted with a young man about 25 years of age. He was finishing his PhD work in psychology. As we introduced ourselves and having learned I was a minister, he seemed pleased to let me know he did not believe in the existence of God. As we traveled on, I took advantage of his comment and asked him a simple question, “Do you believe the universe came about by accident?” I could tell by his hesitation and the wondering look on his face that he had never been asked this question. After a moment he said, “Well, I wouldn’t put it that way.” I then asked, “Why not?” He paused, trying to find an answer. I followed up by asking, “If the universe did not come about by accident, then how would you explain its existence?”

I told him that from a materialistic point of view, it seems the only explanation for the existence of the universe is that it just somehow happened—it was just a happenstance. Yet, he could not bring himself to accept this. But why? Because to him, the term “accident” would cast a doubtful reflection on the atheistic view of origins. I went on to ask him if he believed it was possible that the universe could have never existed. He thought a moment and answered yes. I followed by saying, “Then there was a 50/50 chance of its existence—it could have or could not have existed.” He agreed. So I said, “Then the universe was really just an accident wasn’t it?” But he was still reluctant to agree. I then told him why using the term “accident” was relevant; because there is only one other possible explanation for the existence of the universe—that it was planned. I asked if he agreed with this. He didn’t want to, but I knew he could see the logic of my point. Then I asked him which was the most rational: a planned universe or an accidental universe? I then pressed him to explain the logic of the universe just accidentally occurring. He told me he would have to think about that.

I then switched to the idea of eternal existence. I asked him if he believed there was ever a point at which nothing at all existed—absolutely nothing. Not having ever faced such a question, he was not sure how to respond. I told him that I had no trouble answering it—that there could have never been a time when there was nothing. Then I asked him if he believed it was possible for something to literally come from nothing. After another moment he said no. I then suggested that since something cannot come from nothing, there must be something that has always existed, something that never had a beginning. He said he had never thought about it like that. So I offered him yet another question. “What could it be that has always existed?” I suggested the only opposite views: it was either eternal mind or eternal matter. I asked him which view seemed to be more reasonable? He did not respond. So I then asked him to explain the rationale of believing that lifeless, dead matter is somehow, of itself, eternal. He continued pondering.

Then I asked him if he believed the popular “big bang” theory—that the universe began with a super-gigantic explosion. As I suspected, he said yes. But when I showed him how this theory contradicts the view that matter is eternal, his confused look was obvious. He could see that he was believing two contradictory ideas. As we arrived at Houston, I asked him if we could continue our discussion by mail. He avoided giving an answer.

I’ve sometimes thought about him, wondering if our discussion had caused him to question his belief in atheism. This young man is only one of many people who fall under Paul’s indictment of being “without excuse” and possessing a darkened, “foolish heart” ([Rom. 1:20-21](#)). No wonder that two times the Bible says, “The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God” ([Psa. 14:1](#); [53:1](#)).

It is so uplifting and encouraging to believe in an eternal God and to trust in Him. With such a belief, as Christians, we are kept strong and faithful. And it is this kind of belief that can lead lost people to salvation.