

2+2+???

Children's questions are innumerable. Some are manageable (e.g., How big is the moon? What make the wheels on the car roll?...); others are more challenging (e.g., Why is the sky blue? How do we

breath?...). Then there are some that fall into a different category. A few years ago we began teaching Bailey fundamental math. In basic addition, we showed her that if you hold up two fingers, then hold up an additional two fingers, you're now holding up four fingers: "See Bailey, two plus two equals four." On one occasion she responded, "Why does two plus two equal four? I want it to equal three!" Our response was, "It doesn't matter what you want it to be. Two plus two equals four no matter what. That's just the way it is!" She needed to understand that there are certain facts in life that you accept — that's just the way it is. And no matter how hard we want those facts to change, facts are facts. The same principle holds true in religion — some things are true regardless of our preference.

Take for example, the topic of baptism: what is its purpose? The Bible teaches that the sinner's response to God's grace is faith (Jn. 8:24), repentance (Lk.13:3), confession (Ac. 8:37), and baptism. Baptism is the act of obedience that puts us into contact with the death and blood of Christ (Rom. 6:33ff), which washes our sins away (Ac. 22:16). Peter told the Jews on Pentecost, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sin" (Ac. 2:38). The same apostle later wrote the "baptism doth also now save us" (1 Pet. 3:21). But in spite of these passages, many want to believe otherwise, that is, that two plus two equals three. "But I want to believe that baptism has nothing to do with washing my sins away, with saving my soul... But I want to believe that baptism is an outward sign of an inward grace... But I want to believe that baptism is something I do because I'm saved, not in order to be saved..." Sounds a bit like Naaman, doesn't it? When he was asked to dip in the Jordan River to be cleansed of leprosy, can you hear him mumbling, "What in the world could the Jordan have to do with my being cleaned? That's ridiculous!"? Two plus two equals four, Naaman. And the same holds true today. Our kind response to folks about baptism should be similar to parents' response to their children: "It doesn't matter what we want it to be — two plus two equals four — regardless of our preference."

If God said it, that settles it, and we must believe it. Facts are facts.

- Chuck Webster

"Wing and a Prayer"

Americans have many sayings. We use them virtually every day in our conversations. We say things like, "straight from the horse's mouth," "put my two cents in" and "loaded for bear." We seldom pause to think about the origin of such sayings. Books have been written and websites are maintained that explain the origin of many of these.

One such saying is, "on a wing and a prayer." This is used in reference to something that either did succeed although it was unlikely, or something for which success is hoped even though it is not likely. Its origin comes from World War I. Airplanes were still a novelty and had not been battle-tested. They were used, but often without great success. Whenever a pilot would return to base with a plane that had wing damage it was said that he was brought back "on a wing and a prayer."

As we think of this concept, that is the way many treat their spiritual lives. They claim they want to make it to heaven and hope they will be successful in that endeavor; yet, they do not live as if that is where they are headed. Their spiritual lives are more "a wing and a prayer" matter than a matter of Biblical faith. Theirs are lives that exemplify something for which success is hoped, but will not likely happen.

True Biblical faith requires not only our trust in God, but our obedience to Him. James declared the following: "*Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone*" (Jas. 2:17). "*But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?*" (Jas. 2:20). "*Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only*" (Jas. 2:24). "*For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also*" (Jas. 2:26). Jesus plainly asked, "*And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*" (Lk. 6:46). He is declared to be the Savior of all who will obey Him (Heb. 5:8, 9). Our faith must have on its work shoes, and be more than a mere "wing and a prayer" proposition. Is yours a faith that obeys?

-Eddy

Teens

September Date to Remember

9/2—*Teen Bible Study after evening services*

9/9—*Homecoming*

9/14-16—*RUSH Weekend—FHU*

9/23—*Teen Bible Study after evening services*

9/30—*Youth Conduct services*

New Fall Classes & Notes

Primary class teachers for fall will be: Sandra Altizer, Jo Ann Edwards, Dee House, Sondra Tyler, Kay Anderson, Wanda Martin and Charlotte Harrington.

The **Adults** will be meeting in the auditorium on Sunday mornings with Jerry Anderson and Tom Duff team-teaching the Old Testament.

The **Middle & High school students** will be in the fellowship hall with Eric Earnhart also teaching the Old Testament.

Wednesday evening classes include Ecclesiastes by Eddy Gilpin in the auditorium, Jeanny Gilpin will teach the ladies class in the fellowship room, Lyn Shrader will be teaching the High School class how to "Get Real" and Bob Garby will teach the Middle School class about leadership.

Primary Teachers: Please add the following dates for teachers meetings to your agenda for next year: 1/13, 2/24, 3/16, 4/20, 5/25.

Education Committee will be having a meeting on September 16 at 4:00.

The changing table in the toddlers' classroom has been moved to the nursery. Changing tables are also located in the new restrooms.

WOW (West Sides Older Workers)

September 15 — The WOW Group and Team 2 will combine forces for a day of fun at the Natural Bridge Safari Park.

Team Events

Team 2— Will be joining the WOW group on September 15 to visit Natural Bridge Safari Park. Sign up sheet on the board.

Team 3— Will be in charge of setting up and cleaning up for the fellowship meal that will be on Sept. 9. It will be West Side's 40th Anniversary/Homecoming. Also there will be a Bar-B-Que at the Gilpins on Friday, 9/21 at 6:00. Sign up sheet on the board!



SICK

Joan Neighbors, **Glenn's** mother is recuperating at Glenn & Sandra's.

Loren Boyd, **Ortie's** brother, suffered another massive stroke last Monday.

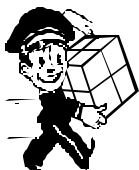
Brandon Beckner, **John Black's** grandson, is having problems with his esophagus.

Remember the following in prayer: **Luetta Gregory, Betty Jenkins, Effie Wimmer, Evelyn White.**



Happy Birthday this week to:

Jackie Dixon—9/7
Susan Duff—9/7
Simms triplets—9/7



Happy Anniversary to:
Wayne & Jackie Dixon—9/2
Lyn & Annette Shrader—9/8

SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER ITEMS FOR THE

STAFFORDS: Torengo's and dream whip envelopes. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



MILITARY

HN {FMF} STRICKLIN, AARON T.
1/7 WPNS CO; UNIT 41535
FPO AP 96426-1535

PAVEMENT

The paving has been postponed until Tuesday. So on Wednesday night plan on parking in the field via the house on Poplar Avenue.

RECEPTION SIGN UP

There is a sign-up sheet posted on the board to help with refreshments/clean up for the RECEPTION. Team 3 will be in charge of set up and clean up of the fellowship meal.

LADIES NIGHT OUT KICK OFF

Ladies Night Out Kick off will be September 6 at 7:00 here in the Fellowship Hall. Dessert will be served.

ANNUAL GOLF OUTING

The annual Golf Outing will be held on September 8. Please sign up on the board if you plan to attend.

TURN, TURN, TURN

*T3 will be on October 6 from 8:30—2:15.
*T3 planners meeting will be next Sunday at 4:00.
*We are looking for old free standing hair dryers for décor—if you have one please see Jo Ann, Jeanny or Velda if we can borrow it!!
***Also** drinks can be donated by placing them in the kitchen!

TODDLER TEACHERS

There will be a meeting at Jeanny's to go over the new teaching material on September 10 at 7:00.

WOW GROUP and TEAM 2

The WOW Group and Team 2 will be joining forces for a day at the animal Safari Park at Natural Bridge. Sign-up sheets are posted on the WOW and Team News Boards, so sign up and plan to meet here at West Side on Saturday, September 15 at 9:30 am. for a fun day with "**Omar.**"

DALE RIDGE LADIES DAY

The Dale Ridge congregation will be holding it's first Ladies Day on September 15. Guest speaker is Liz Bailey.

ELSIE SMITH NEEDS A RIDE SIGN UP

The sign up sheet to pick up Elsie for services is located on the board. Sign up today!!!

September 2007

Announcements	Danny Guard	
Song Leader (AM)	Eric Earnhart	
Opening Prayer (AM)		
9/2	Charles Maness	
9/9	Tom Rogers	
9/16	Squeaky Valentine	
9/23	Wayne Dixon	
9/30	Tom Duff	
Preside at Communion	Greg Edwards	
Serve Table	Roger Mays	Bobby Martin
	Fred Altizer	Jeremy White
Closing Prayer		
9/2	Richard Simms	
9/9	George Mellon	
9/16	Tom Richardson	
9/23	Bob Garby	
9/30	Jim Cooke	
Song Leader (PM)	Jeff Durham	
Opening Prayer (PM)		
9/2	Don Pettit	
9/9	AC Janney	
9/16	Glenn Hartman	
9/23	Jim Bush	
9/30	Youth	
Scripture Reader	Shawn Simms	
Closing Prayer (PM)		
9/2	Jerry Anderson	
9/9	Sam Valentine	
9/16	Mark Brooks	
9/23	Crawford Keith	
9/30	Youth	
Serve Table (PM)	Preston Duff	Ethan Rogers
Song Leader (Wed)	Josh Whitlow	
Prayer (Wed)		
9/5	Mike Durham	
9/12	Paul Mays	
9/19	Claude Crowe	
9/26	Adam House	
Open/Close Bldg	Tom Rogers	
Greeters	Browns	Paxtons
Nursery Attend	Velda Gearhart	Jo Ann Edwards
Ushers	Norris Gearhart	Curtis Oakes
Handouts	Shawn & Ryan Simms	
	Herb Baker & Mark Brooks	
Alternates	Mike Durham	
Prepare comm.	Audrey Gabbard & Betty Buckner	
Cards & Pencils	Chandler Jearls & Andrew Gibson	
Last weeks attendance	8/26&29/2007	
Bible Class—	134	Worship Service—189
Eve. Worship—	126	Wed. Service—148
Contribution—	\$7539	