

### **“What do these stones mean?”**

“And those twelve stones, which they took out of Jordan, did Joshua pitch in Gilgal. And he spoke unto the children of Israel, saying, When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What *mean* these stones? Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land. For the LORD your God dried up the waters of Jordan from before you, until ye were passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red sea, which he dried up from before us, until we were gone over: That all the people of the earth might know the hand of the LORD, that it *is* mighty: that ye might fear the LORD your God forever.” (Joshua 4:20-24)

After God stopped the flow of the Jordan River, and the two million children of Israel crossed over, walking across the dry river bed floor, God gave the instructions that a man from each of the twelve tribes lift and carry a stone from out of the river bed. He was to carry this stone to a particular place in the Jordan valley where they would be piled up in a heap. This pile of stones was to serve as a memorial to cause the younger generation to marvel and be encouraged, and cause the older generation to remember God had been with the Israelites every step of the way.

This heap of stones meant that God’s people not only had a past, they also had a future. Surely, the people had a glorious past with memories so dear. They had been delivered out of Egyptian bondage. They had been protected from their enemies. They had been given manna, quail, and water. They had been given guidance through the wilderness with a cloud by day and a fire by night. No other people had ever been so protected as the children of Israel.

But they also had a promising future. “*When your children ask their fathers in time to come...*” (Josh. 4:21). They needed to prepare each generation to tell the world about their God. If they failed, who would tell them? The sobering truth is it only takes one generation to forget the hard-learned lessons of its predecessors (cf. Jud. 2:10, 11; Ex. 1:8). But these stones were intended to inspire future generations with the conviction that God can handle the present as easily as He has dealt with the past.

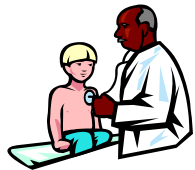
The inspired record says it was the priests who carried the ark that first touched the water with their feet. But by faith, they continued into the water while God simultaneously drove the waters back knowing that all of Israel was depending upon them. Like the swollen and frightening Jordan River, many things in life can also trouble us deeply. But that pile of stones meant that God is in charge if we’ll just do what He says.

If the Lord wills, there are generations yet unborn who will be depending upon what we do now. The Lord’s church most certainly has had a glorious past leaving us as the recipients of so many blessings today. Are we as willing to work and sacrifice as they were so that our children’s children will look back at our day and marvel at the hand of God in our lives? Yes, what you do today does matter *now* and *tomorrow*. What stones are you leaving behind?

– Howell Ferguson

Continue to remember in prayer:

# Sick



Margaret Kratz, Miriam Majors, Betty & Walter Jenkins, Jim Dorsett, E.V. Wimmer, Martha Keith, WJ Wood, Al Furrow, Lyn Anderson, Marguerite Charles, Jo Musgrove, Isabelle Simmons, Sandra Wood, Carol & Vernon Daniels, Evelyn Scott, Teresa

White, Jean Peterson, Ben Nikkel, Shirley Fisher

- Jackie Dixon is home from her surgery last week.
- Debbie Bumbalough, Gospel Advocate Associate, had successful surgery last week.
- Amanda Pettit, daughter-in-law of the Pettit's, had back surgery.
- Several are out with the seasonal illnesses.

## Happy Birthday this week to:

Paul Mays—1/10

Karen Munsey—1/16

Richard Simms—1/16

Grace Myers—1/17



## Military

Jay Martin—Afghanistan



## JANUARY ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS:

Clear packing tape & dry erase markers. (these items are desperately needed) Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



To appreciate the beauty of a snow flake, it is necessary to stand out in the cold.

Advice is like snow - the softer it falls, the longer it dwells upon, and the deeper it sinks into the mind.

A lot of people like snow. I find it to be an unnecessary freezing of water.

## Upcoming Events:



**Team 3** (Valentine) will be having a Pot Luck Planning Session on January 17 after morning services. Bring your dish and ideas for the coming year. Drinks & ice will be provided.

## Teens



### January Dates

January 17—TBS

January 31—Young Men conduct services.

Bible Bowl is set for March 6

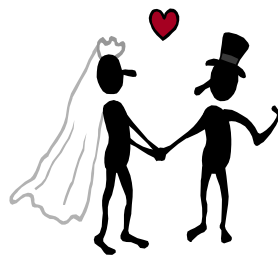
Study Guides are available!

The Mock Bible Bowl is Feb. 13th. at 9am. It's for ALL youth to pre-test their Bible Bowl knowledge before the actual Bible Bowl on March 6th. Youth & Parents should reserve this date on their calendars now! Breakfast items will be available.

## WOW

The next regular meeting will be on January 12 at 10:30.

Congratulations to Becky Cooke and Drew Francis who were married on Thursday. They will reside in Maryland.



Drew & Becky Francis  
Address removed per church privacy policy.

Also Melissa Marshall will be getting married to Matt Yarbro at the end of the month. A reception is being planned for her on January 31 after evening services. If you want to help host this reception please see Jo Ann today!!!

# Weekly Reminders

## For Your Information

### ELDERS & DEACONS

The elders solicit your input in suggesting the names of men who could possibly serve as elders and deacons at West Side. Forms are available in the foyer for your convenience. Please submit these names to one of the elders. Thank you for your prayerful consideration of this matter.

### UPDATE INFORMATION

Please check the board to **verify your address** information. The new directory will be posted in the 2010 Plan of Works.

### GIMME 5

If your picture and /or name is not found on the Gimme 5 bulletin board in the foyer, and you are a Gimme 5 contributor, please let Jeanny know.

### WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday Fellowship will be on January 13 at 5:45. Menu includes Chicken Cacciatore, Salad, Bread, Dessert. Sign up by tonight and pay your \$5 at the door!

### EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE

All announcements for the January 17 bulletin need to be in the office by Thursday morning at 8 AM.

### PRIMARY TEACHERS MEETING

There will be a Primary Teachers Meeting on January 17 at 4:30 in the fellowship hall. First Grade teachers are in charge of snacks.

### TURN TURN TURN

There will be a meeting of the T3 Planners on January 24 at 4:30. We are looking for those who have never helped to prepare for this event to come and bring your ideas!

### NEW MEMBERS DINNER (UPDATE)

The New Members Dinner is Jan. 23rd at 5:45. It's for ALL to welcome our 2009 newly baptized and relocating members to West Side. PLEASE RE-SERVE THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW!

### SMOKY MOUNTAIN MARRIAGE RETREAT

You still have time to sign up for this great workshop. February 18-20. See Poster in the hallway for details!

### SPRING LADIES CLASS

There is a sign up sheet for all ladies interested in attending a Ladies Class during the Spring Quarter.

### 2009 CONTRIBUTIONS

If you will be needing letters for your 2009 contributions, please send the information to Tom, JoAnn or one of the elders as soon as possible. Thanks in advance!

### Prayer List:

Marguerite Charles  
Lyn Anderson  
Martha Keith  
Miriam Majors  
Walter & Betty Jenkins  
WJ Wood  
Margaret Kratz  
Jim Dorsett  
E.V. Wimmer  
Charlie Puckett  
Jo Musgrove  
Al Furrow  
Michelle Earnhart  
Ed Argabright  
Sandra Wood  
Vernon & Carol Daniels  
Glenn & Ruth Hartman  
Jo Hartman  
Debbie Bumbalough  
Bobby Paxton  
Jackie Dixon  
Jean Peterson  
Evelyn Scott  
Amanda Pettitp



### January 2010

Announcements: Jerry Anderson  
Song Leader (AM): Eric Earnhart  
Communion: Jeff Durham (preside)  
C. Brown, E. Mickens, J. Bush, G. Durham  
Prayer: Gene Benefield (open)  
John Black (close)  
Next week prayer: David Brown (open)  
Jim Cooke (close)  
Song Leader (PM): Sam Valentine  
Scripture Reader: Bradford Durham  
Prayer: Jim Harrington (open)  
Glenn Hartman (close)  
Next week prayer: Adam House (open)  
AC Janney (close)  
Communion: Paul Mays, Roger Mays  
Song leader (Wed): Josh Whitlow  
Prayer: Don Pettit  
Next week prayer: Tom Richardson  
Open/Close Building: Mike Durham  
Greeters: Benefields, Paxtons  
Nursery: Rebecca Durham (AM) Judy Durham (PM)  
Ushers: Curtis Oakes, Squeaky Valentine  
Handouts: Mark Brooks, Paul Faw  
Prepare Communion: Kay Anderson, Kim Brown

Last Week Attendance 1/3&6/10  
Bible Class—155 Worship Service—178  
Sunday Eve—127 Wednesday—138  
Contribution—\$8254



## “Exceptions” to the Rule (5)

### First 100 Days

#### Jan. 10 (Romans 10)

- Read Romans 10 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 10
  - Israel's only hope - the gospel
  - Memorize Rom. 10:17
- Write a note or card this week
- \*Increase your contribution by \$1 today

#### Jan. 11 (Romans 11)

- Read Romans 11 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 11
  - Jewish rejection is not irrevocable
  - Memorize Rom. 11:22

#### Jan. 12 (Romans 12)

- Read Romans 12 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 12
  - Practical matters of Christianity
  - Memorize Rom. 12:2

#### Jan. 13 (Romans 13)

- Read Romans 13 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 13
  - The Christian and the state (1-7)
  - The law of love (8-10)
  - Spiritual awakening (11-14)
  - Memorize Rom. 13:1

#### Jan. 14 (Romans 14)

- Read Romans 14 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 14
  - Christian freedom and optional matters
  - Memorize Rom. 14:12

#### Jan. 15 (Romans 15)

- Read Romans 15 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 15
  - Mutual concern (1-14)
  - Paul's plans for the future (15-33)
  - Memorize Rom. 15:4

#### Jan. 16 (Romans 16)

- Read Romans 16 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 16
  - Greetings to various people (1-16)
  - Dealing with apostasy (17-20)
  - Paul's co-workers and closing words (21-27)
  - Memorize Rom. 16:17

In our study of the word “except” we have noted that it appears 74 times in the King James Bible. In our study of it from the Old Testament we have seen that it is a very important word because it points out the exception(s) to the rule or statement given. And, in most cases, unless the exception(s) had been stated, the result(s) or consequence(s) would have been devastating (i.e. Esther 4:11). We continue our look at this word and this principle by turning to the New Testament.

When the Lord was asked who the greatest in the kingdom are, He sat a little child in the midst of the crowd and made this statement: “ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.” Such a statement by itself would prevent any from being a part of the kingdom. However, Jesus preceded this statement with these words: “Except ye be converted, and become as little children” (Mt. 18:3). Thus, there is an exception to the rule. Notice further that He did not tell how one is converted in this passage, but merely that one must be converted.

When being tempted by the Pharisees through their question of whether a man can divorce his wife for any reason, Jesus responded with this basic statement: “And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife,...and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.” Had this been all the Lord stated about this subject it would have forbidden divorce and remarriage to another not only for any reason, but for all reasons. It simply could not have been done with heaven’s approval. However, in the midst of this basic statement Jesus said: “except it be for fornication” (Mt. 19:9). Thus, there is an exception to the general rule that divorce and remarriage are sinful. That exception (and the only exception) is in the case of sexual unfaithfulness. In such an instance, the innocent party (and the innocent party alone) has the right to divorce his/her mate and marry another (as long as that person is Scripturally eligible for marriage). The word “except” not only provides a legitimate reason for such to occur, but it also limits it to that act in order for it to take place Scripturally.

(To be continued.)

-Eddy