

Now He Is Gone *Preston Silcox*

Surely you know this person as well as I. He was faithful to attend as he learned more and more about God. His Word, the church, and the needs of his soul. Eventually he was baptized into Christ and seemed zealous to learn and grow as a Christian. In time, however, he appeared to “cool off”. His attendance slowed down as well as his participation in other church activities. The day finally arrived when he was nowhere to be found; he was never at Bible class and never at worship. What happened?

The world did not care. Of course, who would expect it to? The world rushed along with its own business of self-absorption, temporal pleasures, and near-sighted ambitions, all the while kindly inviting him to participate. Because he had been a Christian only a short while, in a way he had not yet ventured far from the world, so its call was loud and its sights were visible and alluring. Friends and family outside of Christ did not understand how fragile he was as a new creature. They were not aware of the spiritual struggles they were causing him; they were simply acting like they always did and expected him to take part as he always had. Now he is gone.

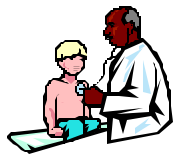
Christians did not care. While not every single brother and sister in Christ acted haphazardly around or toward him, the fact is, too many did. There were some who were no better than the world as they set stumbling blocks before him, tempting him to revert back to his old ways. Others failed to encourage him as a Christian, themselves forgetting how difficult it is being only a babe in Christ. And, of course, there were those who saw him drifting, but decided it was not their business to confront him, reasoning that such would be sticking their noses in where they did not belong. Now he is gone.

He did not care. Obviously, a great portion of the blame was his. Plenty of other Christians have remained faithful in spite of struggles with worldly temptations and inconsiderate brethren. Like those, he had heard the truth and had been warned about the danger of drifting. He knew the importance of spiritual growth and focusing on heavenly goals. The sad fact is he did not value his soul enough. Now he is gone.

Surely, you know this person as well as I. Unfortunately, he is too well known. He is seen in practically every congregation and is neglected by virtually the same people. He began well, but now he is gone.

Sick

Continue to remember in prayer:



Marguerite Charles,
Margaret Kratz, Betty Jenkins, Lynn &
Mary Anderson, Crawford &
Martha Keith, Mariam Majors, Steve Har-
rah, Keeley Finan, Marcus Hayes.

Nancy Benefield will be having surgery this week

Josh Shrader is home after his surgery on Friday.

Edith Crigger, Collin Gregory's sister is in a nursing home after her fall and surgery.

Luis Rivera, friend of Dee House, is at RMH room 917 with an unknown growth on his arm.

Happy Birthday this week to:



WJ Wood—9/14
Brian Munsey—9/15
Margaret Kratz—9/15
Jimmy Harrington—9/16
Jim Cooke—9/18

Happy Anniversary this week to:

Jeff & Rebecca Durham—9/17
Mitch & Kristie Jearls—9/17



For Your Information

Part 2

LADIES NIGHT OUT

Our monthly Ladies Night Out will be on Tuesday, September 16, in the fellowship hall at 6:30. Hosted by Amanda Brown and Rebecca Durham. Bring your favorite dish of comfort food. There are still months available for hosting—see the board!!

WEST SIDE GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 15th Annual WS Golf Tournament will be held on Sept. 27 at 11:00 AM at the Blue Hills Golf Club. Sign up sheet on the board!

NEW DEADLINE

Attention all primary teachers! Deadline change for email lesson plans, activities, (and giving visuals to Tommy) etc. to Tommy Richardson and Danny. You now have one year (not 9 months) from your last teaching qtr. to do this. For example: Fall teachers deadline is now Nov. 30th, not August 30th. Thanks!

Upcoming Gospel Meetings

September 14-17

Christiansburg with Tom Hodge

Dale Ridge with Chuck Webster

October 5-8

Galax with Tom House

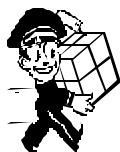
October 12-15

Fort Chiswell with Dennis Curd

October 19-22

West Side with Gary Hampton

SEPTEMBER ITEMS FOR THE



STAFFORDS: Dryel (at home dry cleaning) & tea bags (mandarin orange or mango). Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!

MILITARY

Kyle Nester— in Iraq
Erich Felps—in Iraq
Chris Coleman—in Iraq
Angela Ridgeon—in Iraq
Katy Halling—aboard a Navy Ship
Ty Stricklin will be returning to Iraq in October.



F Y I

For Your Information

UPCOMING GOSPEL MEETING

Address labels for Gary Hampton are available on the table in the foyer. Please pick up a label and write a note of encouragement to Gary in his preparations for our upcoming meeting (October 19-22). Include him in your prayers and let him know you are doing so. Gary Hampton, 6612 Beaver Ridge Rd., Knoxville, TN 37931.

TURN, TURN, TURN

T3 flyers and registrations are located in the foyer. Return to the office by Sept. 20. Also there will be a **T3 Planners meeting** today at 4:30.

AFRICA MISSIONS

Jim Bush and others will be leaving Roanoke Airport at 11:30 on Monday morning to go to Africa. You are invited to come by for a prayer and see them off!!

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY

Margaret Kratz will be 92 tomorrow. There is a box of birthday wishes located in the flyer. If you would like to add your wishes, do so today. The box of wishes will be delivered tomorrow!

AREA WIDE PREACHERS MEETING

The monthly preachers meetings will be starting up again on September 15 at 10:30 here at West Side. Special guest speaker: Tom Hodge. All are invited!

MENS BREAKFAST

The monthly men's breakfast will be a week later due to Olde Salem Days. Meet at Famous Anthony's on Sept. 20, at 8:00 AM.

Teens



September Dates

September 14—Teen Bible Study 7:00
September 12-14—EJFO Rush Weekend

October Dates

October 12—Teen Bible Study—7:00

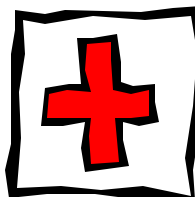
WOW

Please sign up on the WOW board for the video Auto-biographies being done by Richard Simms.

Next WOW meeting will be on Tuesday, October 14, at 10:30.



Team 2 (Garby) will be hosting a **Pounding for the Laplante and Oldham families on September 28.** See Bob for details.



Mary Halling will be gone for about 3 weeks. She has traveled with the Red Cross to the Dallas, TX area to assist with Disaster Relief of Hurricane Ike. Remember her and all those suffering

due to Ike.

Directory Updates:

Removed due to Privacy Policy

September 2008

Announcements Squeaky Valentine
Song Leader (AM) Eric Earnhart
Opening Prayer (AM)
9/7 Charlie Maness
9/14 Danny Guard
9/21 Gene Benefield
9/28 Jerry Anderson

Preside at Communion Tom Rogers
Serve Table Adam House Jeremy White
Jim Harrington Bob Garby

Closing Prayer
9/7 Roger Mays
9/14 Barry White
9/21 Tom Richardson
9/28 Greg Edwards

Song Leader (PM) Jeff Durham
Opening Prayer (PM)
9/7 AC Janney
9/14 Richard Simms
9/21 Glenn Hartman
9/28 George Mellon

Scripture Reader Ethan Rogers
Closing Prayer (PM)
9/7 Herb Baker
9/14 Josh Whitlow
9/21 Mike Durham
9/28 Don Pettit

Serve Table (PM)
Sam Valentine Shawn Simms

Song Leader (Wed) Eric Earnhart
Prayer (Wed)
9/3 Mark Brooks
9/10 David Brown
9/17 Garrett Durham
9/24 Jim Cooke

Open/Close Bldg Richard Simms
Greeters Gilpin Bush
Nursery Attend Sandra Altizer Evelyn Scott
Ushers David McFalls Norris Gearhart
Handouts Mike Durham Garrett Durham
Bradford Durham Sam Valentine

Alternates Lyn Shrader
Prepare communion
Jo Hartman Hazel Maness

Cards & Pencils
Sydney Durham Rebecca Doss

Last weeks attendance 9/7&10/08

Bible Class—186 Worship Service—194
Sunday Eve.—145 Wednesday Eve.—148
Contribution—\$5411

Number 2937
September 14, 2008

Prayer-
“Pouring Out My Poverty Before Heaven’s Wealth”

In our class on worship on Wednesdays this quarter we have been looking particularly at the “in spirit” (Jn. 4:24) aspect of worship. This involves what I bring to worship- my attitude, disposition, concentration and devo-

tion. The “in truth” aspect of worship is much easier to quantify and control. The “in spirit” part remains the responsibility of the worshiper and can be controlled only by him. It is indeed a challenge truly to worship God “in spirit;” much more of a challenge than we often consider.

Our latest class centered on prayer. One of the definitions we noticed for prayer was: “The pouring out of my poverty before heaven’s riches.” Prayer is the action of feeble and finite man to convey his petitions, desires, praise and gratitude before the throne of Almighty God. In prayer we stand before God to express our concerns and needs (cf. I Tim. 2:1). We pour out our souls before Him (I Sam. 1:10, 15). God is the Creator or all that exists (Ex. 20:11), the Giver of all that is good (Jas. 1:17; II Pet. 1:3) and the owner of all the world (Ps. 50:10). In prayer, we approach this beneficent Being (I Jn. 4:8, 16) to ask for His providence (Mt. 6:11), sue for His favor (Ps. 67:1) and express our thanksgiving (I Thes. 5:18).

It is an awesome and almost incomprehensible thing that we do, yet we so often take it for granted or esteem it so lightly. We should understand the seriousness of approaching God. Read Isaiah 6 and Ezekiel 1 to see the magnificence of the throne of God and the awe-inspiring experiences of these two great prophets as they approached it. To know that God allows His own (Prov. 15:29; Jn. 9:31) to approach His throne and call upon Him to hear their requests is utterly amazing. To know that we can take our weaknesses before His strengths, our sins before His holiness, our frailties before His perfection and our limitations before His omniscience causes the mind to wonder in amazement and the voice to utter praise! When was the last time you worshiped in prayer sincerely with the realization you were approaching heaven’s wealth with your poverty? -Eddy