

Don't Be Afraid of Little Things

An old Chinese proverb says. "A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step." Every man was once a baby. Rivers are made up

of drops of water. The shore of the sea which we call the beach is made up of grains of sand. What would the world be without little things?

Many people have failed in life because of an inability to place the proper value on small things. One cent lost in a sale makes one dollar when there are one hundred sales. It is looking after such small matters that assures success for many people in business. The same is true in whatever we do. A person may be very talented, but one fault, though it may seem small, may result in failure. Did you ever hear someone say, "I like that fellow, but for one thing, he is always talking about himself"? Some call it "tooting his own horn." One little fault marred the beauty of an entire life. Or you hear another say, "That fellow is a very good man, but for one thing, he is lazy. He just will not work." This one fault casts a shadow on everything else. By this we can see the harm that one small fault can do. If we turn this thought over we will find a valuable lesson on the other side. As sure as success is lost because of small things, it is gained by small things. Looking after details is a profitable habit.

Let's look at the work of the church and see how much it depends on little things. It is impossible to know how many small matters are looked after by those who are never really recognized as workers in the church. However, recognition from man is not what genuine Christians are interested in. What would the church be without some to look after details? How much "decency and order" could be had without these—cont.

The Elders

What Have You Been Singing Lately? (5)

Paul told the Corinthians, "I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also" (I Cor. 14:15). This was not merely a good idea or a suggestion for their consideration. It was a command of God (cf. I Cor. 14:37). It goes hand-in-hand with our Lord's requirement that all worship be "in spirit and in truth" (Jn. 4:24). Thus, I must possess the right attitude (spirit) in singing, and I must also sing that which is truth. A vital part of singing "in spirit" is that my life not be a lie if judged by the sentiments I sing. With this thought in mind, what have you been singing lately?

Have you sung the song, "*I'll Be a Friend to Jesus*" lately? As you read its words (verses two and three and the chorus) ask yourself if you have been expressing sentiments that are untrue in your own life:

"The world may turn against Him; I'll love Him to the end; And while on earth I'm living, My Lord shall have a friend.
I'll do what He may bid me; I'll go where He may send; I'll try each flying moment, To prove that I'm His friend.
I'll be a friend to Jesus, My life for Him I'll spend; I'll be a friend to Jesus, Until my years shall end."

Is it true that the Lord has a friend in you? He stated, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you" (Jn.15:14). It is easy enough to say you are His friend, but a more difficult task to demonstrate it by obedience. Is it the case that you are determined to "love Him to the end?" The apostles promised the same thing, yet they all fled Him in His hour of trial (Mt. 26:35). Have you determined to "spend" your life "for Him," as the song suggests? Perhaps you have never committed your life to His service; or, perhaps you did so at some point in the past, but are not living up to that promise now.

— continued

Teens

December meeting dates:

Dec. 31—Teen Devo/game night

Winter Area Devotionals:

January 6—Radford 6-7:30

February 3—Christiansburg 6-7:30

March 10—Lake Drive 6-7:30

Dates for Teens:

March 3, 2007 Southwest Virginia Bible Bowl

June 17-23, 2007 VCC

July 1-6, 2007 Horizons Senior Week

July 8-13, 2007 Horizons Junior Week

What Have You Been Singing Lately? -continued

I wonder how much different our song service would be if we all determined not to sing anything that was contrary to our lives. We make an attempt not to sing words or concepts that are themselves untrue. But are we as concerned about living as we sing? Won't you determine truly to be a friend to Jesus today? - Eddy

Kitchen Update

Wow, doesn't the kitchen look good!!! The plumbing is finished in the kitchen but still waiting on the electrician to finish the wiring. Big thanks to Greg Edwards, Butch Williams, Fred Altizer, and Charlie Gwaltney, for installing the cabinets and countertops.

The bathrooms are finished and usable. The towel dispensers are automatic, just run your hand under the dispenser. Also it is not a toy for children!!

All the floors have been polished and everything is clean!! The old kitchen will become the storage room for all cleaning and paper supplies, light bulbs, salt and the like. This will not be a junk room!! Also only media supplies in the media room!! Thanks Tom for letting us dump stuff in the media room during construction!

Westside's Older Workers

The next scheduled meeting will be January 9, 2007. Plan on helping to collate the West Side Plan of Works books.

New Address: **Norma Biller**, 4230 Elm View Road, Apt. 433, Roanoke, VA 24018

Elders...cont. people? The answer is on the surface. There is a great host of people who are constantly looking after what we call small matters, who are actually contributing the difference between success and failure.

Someone is ill and needs care. A member of the church silently fits into the picture and does a bit of modest service. A person is helped. The church is glorified. New life has come from somewhere. Perhaps none of us recognized just where this new life comes from, but I am sure it could be traced back to this modest service.

Someone has grown weak and ceased to worship. He is "forsaking the assembly". A devout Christian does a little exhorting. No announcement was made. In fact none knew of it but these two, but soon the fault is removed and a soul is restored. New strength is added to the church. Where did this new strength originate? Who knows? Perhaps just two people and God.

A neighbor needs to hear the gospel. One who loves souls of men invites him to attend services with him. He attends again and again. Soon he obeys the gospel. A new child is born into the kingdom of God. Someone gives the preacher credit for converting another soul, but God knows what happened. He saw the humble child as he approached the stranger with the invitation. God will not forget. His reward is sure. A small service was performed and a soul was born.

Yes, just as sure as you sometimes find a "little leaven in a large lump," if you will turn that lesson around and make another application you will sometimes find "a lot of leaven in a little lump," and the world goes on. We depend so much on small things. The small things that you may be able to do. Remember their importance and don't be afraid of small things. - copied

The Elders

SICK

Shirley Baker is home and recovering from her recent stay at LGH.

Marquerite Charles will be having out patient procedures soon to improve her long-range health.

Claire Gray was in the emergency room Wednesday evening with an infection. She is being treated at home.

Dan Hudgins has been given very serious news about his health.

Luetta Gregory and **Glenna Richardson** have been able to be with us recently. It is good to see them out.

Several of our members have been out this past week due to various viruses and colds.

Remember the following in prayers: **Teresa White, Larry Phillips, Effie Wimmer, Bessie Gilpin.**

CONGRATULATIONS

Chandler Jearls recently tested and was promoted to the rank of probationary Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do. Way to go Chan the Man!!



Happy Birthday this week to:

Dotty Collins—12/17

Eloise Murray—12/19

Marguerite Charles—12/23

Happy Anniversary this week to:

Danny & Charlene Gueard—12/18

Donnie & Susan Montcastle—12/20



MILITARY: Ty Stricklin at 29 Palms Marine Base, Jonathan Simpson, John Shannon and Gabriel Hayes who are in Iraq. Jonathan Chumley, Kosovo.

DECEMBER ITEMS FOR STAFFORDS Stain sticks, markers (any kind, all colors)



BACK ISSUES

Each family at West Side has been receiving “Think” magazine, courtesy of the Lacy Rowe estate. If you are not using the back issues in some fashion, please return those to the building. Geoff wants to use them in his personal work. We will see that they get to him.

TRANSPORTATION

New sign up sheet on board for **transportation for Elsie Smith**. Please sign up today..

Pick up the new **2007 pocket calendars** that are available in the foyer.

WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP MEALS

Now that the kitchen will be in working order next week, we will be starting up the Wednesday Fellowship meals again Wednesday, January 10. Sign up in the hallway and pay your \$5 to an elder by January 7. Menu will be anything but ham or turkey—just kidding—lasagna, salad, rolls and dessert!!

MARK THE DATES

New Members Dinner will be January 20 at 5:45.

Education Banquet will be on February 17, 2007 at 5:45. All education workers are invited along with spouses or friends.

Southwest Virginia Bible Bowl on March 3, 2007.

Making Marriage More Meaningful by Eddy & Jeanny Gilpin on April 27 & 28 at Westside Church of Christ.

Virginia Christian Camp is June 17-23, 2007.

Horizons Senior week is July 1-6, 2007 & Junior Week and CTS is July 8-13, 2007.

Short thoughts

*Encouragement is oxygen to the soul.

*The measure of real success is one you cannot spend...it's the way your child describes you when speaking to a friend.

*Quitters in the church are like motors. They start ‘sputtering’ before they miss, and start missing before they quit.

December 2006

Announcements Fred Altizer
Song Leader (AM) Charlie Gwaltney
Opening Prayer (AM)
12/3 David Brown
12/10 Jeff Durham
12/17 Collin Gregory
12/24 Charles Maness
12/31 Danny Guard
Preside at Communion Bob Garby
Serve Table
T. Richardson J. Harrington
S. Valentine C. Puckett

Closing Prayer

12/3 Mark Brooks
12/10 Murphy Scott
12/17 Paul Mays
12/24 Greg Edwards
12/31 Roger Mays
Song Leader (PM) Eric Earnhart

Opening Prayer (PM)

12/3 Mike Durham
12/10 Tom Rogers
12/17 Bobby Martin
12/24 Tom Duff
12/31 Don Pettit
Scripture Reader Preston Duff

Closing Prayer (PM)

12/3 Barry White
12/10 Mitch Jearls
12/17 Adam House
12/24 Jim Bush
12/31 Glenn Hartman

Serve Table (PM) G. Durham L. Guard

Song Leader (Wed) David Brown

Prayer (Wed)

12/6 Crawford Keith
12/13 Jim Cooke
12/20 Paul Faw
12/27 Herb Baker

Door Man Jerry Anderson

Greeters Maness Whitlows

Nursery Attend B. Mellon S. Altizer

Ushers N. Gearhart C. Oakes

Handouts E. Argabright W. Jenkins
B. Martin G. Neighbors

Alternates Danny Guard C. Guard

Prepare comm. E. Murray M. Rogers

Last weeks attendance 12/3 & 6/2006

Bible Class—139 Worship Service—176

Evening Worship—133 Wed. Service—131

Contribution—\$5583

December 10, 2006