

Faith Unto the Saving of the Soul - Abraham  
Howell Ferguson

*“By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and went out, not knowing whither he went”* (Heb. 11:8). How many of us would go somewhere or do something without knowing where we were going or what we were doing? Probably, not many of us. We have to have it all figured out, don't we? We have to have a *“high degree of probability”* that we'll know the final outcome before we invest too much time and energy into something.

Abraham didn't have that advantage. He didn't have a cell phone, internet, electronic maps or a built-in GPS guidance system on his personal camel which gave him all kinds of information about Canaan. Yet, he went where God told him to go without knowing anything about his destination. He didn't know what the future held for him, but he did know Who held the future. He didn't know where he was going, but he did know Who told him to go. If you were to ask Abraham he might simply say, *“I don't know all about it, but God does.”*

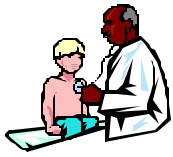
Another Old Testament character, Job made a similar statement: *“Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him. But I will maintain mine own ways before him”* (Job 13:15). Ultimately, it is this kind of total dependence upon God that tests the nature of our faith in God. When we are unable to really see the end; it is times like these that a total reliance upon God becomes the guiding light in our lives. And remarkably, our souls can find joy, rest, and peace in such radical trust.

This kind of total confidence in God was the underlying substance of Paul's following words: *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose,”* and *“For the which cause I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that he is able to keep that which I have committed unto him until that day”* (Rom. 8:28; 2 Tim. 1:12).

The faith unto the saving of the soul spoken of by the Hebrews writer could probably not find a better man to illustrate the point than Abraham. You see, Abraham didn't have it all figured out, but he figured God did. And after all, isn't that all that really matters?

Note: West Side supported the Ferguson family during their time as missionaries in Tanzania.

# Sick



Continue to remember in prayer:  
**Marguerite Charles, Lyn Anderson, Martha Keith, Miriam Majors, Betty Jenkins, WJ Wood, Dee House, Steve Harrah, Keith Angelotti, Margaret Kratz, Martha**

**Keplinger, Raymond Clark, Dorothy Mason, Marble Walker.**

Murphy Scott had cataract surgery on Thursday.

David Wilcox received good news on his recent tests.

WJ Wood hopes to come home tomorrow.

AW Martin, Bobby's brother, is home after spending time in the hospital last week.

Alice Cooke, Jim's mother, is in the final stages of her life.

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## Happy Birthday this week to:

Jo Ann Edwards—1/21  
Tom Rogers—1/23  
Sydney Durham—1/25  
Jeff Reed—1/25  
Murphy Scott—1/25



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## JANUARY ITEMS FOR THE

**STAFFORDS:** Plain instant oatmeal & instant sugar-free chocolate pudding. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



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## MILITARY

In Iraq: Aaron T Stricklin



## Upcoming Events:



Team 3 (Valentine) -**NOTICE!!**

Team 3 will be having a **plan-ning lunch** in the fellowship hall after morning services instead of the evening service. Lunch will be provided at \$5 per person payable at the door. Make plans now to stay if you are on Team 3 and see Squeaky if you have any questions!

Team 3 (Valentine) will be having a dinner at Tom & Melissa Rogers on February 7 at 5:30 pm.

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## Teens

### January Dates



New Members Dinner—1/24

Mark your calendars now for March 7. We will also be having the Biddy Bible Bowl for the kids ages 5-8.

**Bi-Monthly Bible Bowl Study Sessions** will be held in the large classroom at 5:00 on the following Sundays: **January 18**; February 8 & 22. Mock Bible Bowl will be held on February 14 at 9 AM. Breakfast will be provided. See Jim or Charlotte Harrington for details.

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## WOW



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

Lunch at Harbour Inn on January 25. Sign up on the board if you plan on going!!  
Next WOW meeting will be on Tuesday, February 10, at 10:30.





## The Bible Had a Solution Before I Ever Had a Problem

The Bible reveals that God “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue” (II Pet. 1:3). Thus, that which is needful for us has been and will be provided to us. Jesus spoke concerning worry and stated, “Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things” (Mt. 6:25-32).

Regardless of the problem I face in life there are at least two things that are certain about it: 1) Someone else has faced it; 2) God’s word provides a solution for it. Obviously, the Bible does not provide detailed analysis of every incident, action or situation in which we could find ourselves. Nor does it provide a detailed plan of attack to overcome every problem. But, Biblical principles of godly living applied regularly will provide us with the means either to overcome the problem, live with the problem or solve the problem. As Job truthfully stated, man has many troubles (Job 14:1). However, long before my problems became problems to me the Bible had the solutions for them. Whatever your burden, you can take it to the Lord and find comfort for your troubled heart (Mt. 11:28-30; I Pet. 5:7; II Cor. 1:3, 4).

-Eddy

### Jan. 18 (Acts 18)

- Read Acts 18 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 18—Paul at Corinth
- Paul’s 3<sup>rd</sup> missionary journey begins
- Apollos taught the word of God more perfectly by Aquila & Priscilla
- Write a note or card this week
- \*Increase your contribution by \$1 today

### Jan. 19 (Acts 19)

- Read Acts 19 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 19—12 Ephesian men rebaptized by Paul
- Ephesians burn their sorcery books
- Ephesian uproar (goddess Diana)

### Jan. 20 (Acts 20)

- Read Acts 20 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 20—Lord’s Supper at Troas
- Eutychus falls; Paul brings him to life
- Paul speak with Ephesian elders at Miletus

### Jan. 21 (Acts 21)

- Read Acts 21 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 21—Agabus warns Paul not to go to Jerusalem
- Paul goes to Jerusalem
- Paul’s vow
- Jews of Jerusalem attempt to kill Paul
- Paul arrested by the Romans

### Jan. 22 (Acts 22)

- Read Acts 22 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 22—Paul relates his conversion to the Jews at Jerusalem
- Paul brought before the council

### Jan. 23 (Acts 23)

- Read Acts 23 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 23—Council divided by Paul’s comments
- Plot against Paul’s life revealed
- Paul’s journey to Rome begins (taken to Caesarea)

### Jan. 24 (Acts 24)

- Read Acts 24 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Acts 24—Paul’s defense before Felix
- Festus replaces Felix

### Those to Serve in January

**Announcements:** Bob Garby  
**Preside at Communion:** Tom Rogers

**Opening Prayer:** Danny Guard  
Next Week: Collin Gregory

**PM Song Leader:** Charlie Gwaltney  
**Opening Prayer:** Squeaky Valentine  
Next Week: Richard Simms

**Serve Communion:** Cameron Brown, Sam Valentine

**Wednesday Song Leader:** Bob Garby

**Open/Close Bldg:** Fred Altizer  
**Ushers:** Roger Mays, David McFalls  
**Greeters:** Bush/Brown

Last weeks attendance (1/11&14/09)

Bible Class: 158    Worship Service: 195

Contribution: \$7023

**Song Leader:** Jeff Durham  
**Serve Table:** Jeremy White, Ethan Rogers  
Adam House, John Black

**Closing Prayer:** Josh Whitlow  
Next Week: AC Janney

**Scripture Reader:** Nathan Pelfrey  
**Closing Prayer:** Jerry Anderson  
Next Week: Garrett Durham

**Prayer:** Gene Benefield

**Prepare Communion:** Altizer/Buckner  
**Cards/Pencils:** K. Mickens, N. Laplante  
**Nursery Attend:** Charmaine Bush, Ivy Bush

Sunday Evening: 147

Wednesday: 150

**January 18, 2009**

**Number 3003**