

Playing Hurt

I've not been much of a baseball fan. In fact I didn't like the sport at all until my younger son, Andrew, fell in love with the sport. If you've

watched any of the National League Championship Series you know that the catcher for the New York Mets, Mike Piazza, had multiple injuries. I was reminded a couple of nights ago of the old phrase, "playing through the pain". The commentators were discussing major league catchers and how none of them is ever 100% during the season because of all the little "dings" they experience on a daily basis. The best catchers they said are the ones who can perform though they are injured.

I thought of the Christian life. We all experience little "dings" on a daily basis. A cutting remark here, a misrepresentation there. A brother who belittles us on one hand and a sister who isn't strong in her faith on the other. A congregation that slips closer to digression another that spends the Lord's money not on souls, but on snooping and scandalizing the autonomy of the local church. The snub of one who thinks he is better than we or the pang of some overlooked accomplishment, each of these and a thousand more are soul injuries. We all need to be encouraged to "play hurt". To persevere. To give 100% when we don't feel 100%.

"Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water" (Heb. 10:22); "And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also; knowing that tribulation worketh patience; and patience, experience; and experience, hope..." (Rom 5:3-4)... "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints" (Eph. 6:18)... "Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy" (James 5:11).

The best players play hurt!

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A Great Quote

A couple of weeks ago, during our Wednesday evening devotional, I read a quotation which was in reference to the choice that Lot made following the confrontation between his herdsmen and those of Abraham (Gen. 13:5-11). The quote was from a commentary on Genesis by John T. Willis and was quoted by him from a J. Morgenstern from his "The Book of Genesis" commentary. It was such a great quote I thought I would repeat it here, along with the lesson we discussed from it.

"Opportunities to do great things come only occasionally, even to great people. But the little things which must be done, and done right, come constantly to both great and small. If a man should do a few things well, but should fail in all the little things, we could hardly consider him truly great. Perhaps the true test of greatness is the way a man does the little things....But if he does the little things right and promptly, without doubt and hesitation, if he shows himself the master in little things, then he may believe that he will be equal to the big things when they come...The great man must be always ready to do the right thing in the right way."

In reading this statement I am reminded of Naaman (II Kgs. 5). Recall that when he was told by Elisha's messenger to "go and wash in Jordan seven times" (vs. 10) that he went away in a fury, simply because something great had not been at that time done in regards to his situation and/or because something great had not been asked of him to do. However, his servants came to him and asked, "If the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it? how much rather then, when he saith to thee, wash and be clean" (vs. 13).

The common sense approach by these servants prompted Elisha to act in response to this "little thing" that had been asked of him. When he did so, he was cleansed of his leprosy (vs. 14). The Lord has required of each of us that we "wash and be clean" in the waters of baptism (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 8:36; 22:16; I Pet. 3:21). And yet, many people balk at such an idea. Perhaps, like Naaman, if the Lord had commanded "some great thing" of them they would not be so hesitant. Remember the thought from the quotation above: "The great man must be always ready to do the right thing in the right way." Even greater, the words of Jesus: "If you love me, keep my commandments" (Jn. 14:15).

-Eddy

Teens

January Dates:

January 27—Afternoon Movie

Winter Youth Devos:

February 2—Christiansburg

March 8—Lake Drive

Congratulations to **Halle Edwards** for being named to the National Who's Who in English for 2007-2008.

How Critics Turn Out

A little seed lay on the ground,
And soon began to sprout;

Now, which of all the flowers around
It mused, Shall I come out?

The lily's face is fair and proud
But just a trifle too cold;

A rose I think is rather loud
And then, its fashion's old

The violet is all very well
But is not a flower I'd choose;

Not yet the Canterbury bell –
I just never cared for blues.

And so it criticized each flower,
This supercilious little seed,

Until it woke one summer morn,
And found itself – a weed.



Team Events

Team 3 (Brown) will be having a fellowship on February 10 after evening services. Bring your favorite dish and copies of the recipe to share!!

Team Leaders be sure to get your events to the office by Friday, 8AM. Email is best!!
office@westsidecofc-salem.com

WOW GROUP

The next meeting will be on February 12, 2008.

If you would be interested in coordinating the WOW Group functions, please see one of the elders.

Remember our special series of studies on Sunday evenings (February 3-March 9). These are being advertised in the upcoming issue of "House to House." Our subjects will be:

February 3

"Why Jesus Christ is the Messiah and Only Savior of Man"

February 10

"Why the New Testament of Jesus Christ is the Only Authority Today"

February 17

"Why God Does Not Approve of Denominationalism"

February 24

"Why the Church of Christ is the Only One God Approves"

March 2

"Why Baptism in Water is Essential to Your Salvation"

March 9

"Why the Use of Mechanical Instruments of Music in Worship Is Sinful"

SICK

Keith Angelotti, **Sandy Garby's** brother, will be having back surgery in Florida.

Reba Brown, **David's** mother, had surgery on Friday in WV.

Remember the following in prayer: **Betty Jenkins, Collin Gregory, Marguerite Charles, Betty Buckner, Effie Wimmer, Mary Anderson, Margaret Kratz, Crawford Keith, Madolia Rosette.**

Sympathy is extended to Jean Argabright and family in the death of her sister-in-law, Shirley Burch, who passed away last week.

Congratulations are in order for Steve & Cindy Hall. Carly Miranda was born on Tuesday and weighed 7 lbs, 15 oz. All are doing fine.



girl!!

And congratulations are also in order for Jeremy & Monica Sartain with the birth of a daughter, Samantha Ann, on January 10. Gary and Teresa are adjusting well to a new

Happy Birthday this week to:

Jo Ann Edwards—1/21
Tom Rogers—1/23
Sydney Durham—1/25
Murphy Scott—1/25
Jerry Anderson—1/26



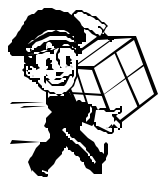
MILITARY

Ty Stricklin—Stationed in Iraq

John Duran—overseas.

Kyle Nester— in Iraq

Erich Felps—in Iraq.



JANUARY ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS: Pepperoni & assorted fruit flavors of Crystal Light. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!

LADIES NIGHT OUT

70's Retro Party will be on Monday, January 21, at 7:00 here at the building. Dig in the back of your closets and wear your favorite 70's garb for grins and giggles. Dinner will be provided so make sure you sign up to get an accurate count!! Shree Lowe, Susan Mountcastle and Melissa Rogers will be hosting.

NEW MEMBERS DINNER

We will be honoring our 2007 new members on January 26 at 5:45. Please sign up on the board for what food items you can bring. Questions see Charlotte or Judy.

TURN,TURN,TURN

There will be a T3 planning session on Feb 3 at 4:00 in the fellowship hall. Any ladies interested are welcome.

DIAPER/BABY SHOWER

Diaper Shower for Yvette Mays will be held on Feb. 10 at 4:00 in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring diapers (size 2 and up). Hosted by Amanda Brown, Kristie Jearls, Sandy Garby and Michelle Earnhart.

SPECIAL WEDNESDAY CLASSES

For the five Wednesday evenings of February 13, 20, 27 and March 5, 12 the Jr. High, Sr. High and Adult classes will be viewing the video series "The Silencing of God" in the auditorium. You are asked to make a special effort to be present for this informative series.

PRIMARY TEACHER MEETING

The next Primary Teachers Meeting will be on February 24 at 4:30. 4/K teachers in charge of snacks!

TANZANIA MISSION TRIP

Anyone interested in going on a campaign to Tanzania on September 15-29, 2008 is asked to see Eddy or Jeff before Jan 31.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Education Banquet—2/23
Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat—2/14&15
SWVA Bible Bowl—3/1
Men's Study Weekend—3/14&15
MSOP Lectureships—3/30-4/3

January 2008

Announcements Jerry Anderson
Song Leader (AM) Eric Earnhart
Opening Prayer (AM)
1/6 Richard Simms
1/13 Squeaky Valentine
1/20 Barry White
1/27 Jeremy White
Preside at Communion Tom Duff
Serve Table Jim Bush Willard Campbell
 Jim Cooke Preston Duff

Closing Prayer

1/6 Ethan Rogers
1/13 Tom Richardson
1/20 Paul Mays
1/27 Adam House

Song Leader (PM) Paul Mays

Opening Prayer (PM)

1/6 Don Pettit
1/13 Roger Mays
1/20 Charlie Maness
1/27 Crawford Keith

Scripture Reader Cameron Brown

Closing Prayer (PM)

1/6 Jim Harrington
1/13 Charlie Gwaltney
1/20 Collin Gregory
1/27 Bob Garby

Serve Table (PM) Glenn Gabbard Charlie Puckett

Song Leader (Wed) Josh Whitlow

Prayer (Wed)

1/2 Greg Edwards
1/9 Mike Durham
1/16 Jeff Durham
1/23 Garrett Durham
1/30 Eddy Gilpin

Open/Close Bldg Jerry Anderson

Open/Close Sun PM David Wilcox

Greeters J. & L. Cooks J. & R. Bush

Nursery Attend M. Earnhart G. Earnhart

Ushers Curtis Oakes David McFalls

Handouts John Black Herb Baker

Alternates John Black

Prepare comm. Kay Anderson Jean Argabright

Cards & Pencils Sydney Durham Chandler Jearls

Last weeks attendance 1/6&9/08

Bible Class— 150 Worship Service—185

Eve. Worship— 150 Wed. Service—142

Contribution—\$5706