

All of us are aware there is much grieving amid the congregation here at this present time. Many have lost a spouse or close loved one within the past year. Others have those with a terminal illness within their own family. Then there are those who are our good friends outside the Lord's church.

Aside from this, there are those who are grieving in a very personal way, about matters of utmost importance to them.

Being conscious of these realities, we commend to you the following article. Prayerfully we can benefit from its contents and truly incorporate these principles into our everyday living. - the elders

Helping the Grieving

When you love someone so much and you see the pain that they are in, and you are fighting with everything in you to help them preserve their dignity, to help them maintain their strength of mind and character, you hide your own feelings. You submerge yourself totally in the person who is sick, or you deny that you have needs.

You deny that you have physical needs, although your body may be screaming for those needs to be taken care of, or you deny that you have emotional needs because all of your emotions are poured out on the person who is ill.

Between the diagnosis of a terminal illness and the actual death, many losses occur which affect both the ill person and family members. They may be physical, psychological, social, spiritual, or a combination of all of these. Reaction to these losses is called ANTICIPATORY GRIEF — a term commonly associated with the slow and expected deaths that have become more typical in our society.

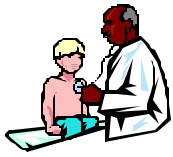
A man dying of cancer, for example, may no longer have the ability to work and may grieve the loss of his identity as a productive person. A woman whose husband suffers from Alzheimer's disease may grieve the loss-in-process of his ability to provide support and companionship. She may also grieve losses yet to come, such as the further deterioration of his health and unfulfilled plans and dreams they have shared.

What can Christians do to help those who are grieving? Let me offer four simple suggestions:

1. **Listen.** You cannot say anything that will help as much as listening. When Job's three friends came to see him in his tragedy, they said nothing for seven days (Job 2:13). They were comforters until they started to talk. A widow wrote after her husband's death: "Alone in my house, I longed for someone to call...anyone...I just wanted to talk."

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Sick



Continue to remember in prayer:
Marguerite Charles,
Margaret Kratz, Lyn Anderson,
Martha Keith, Mariam Majors,
Steve Harrah, Betty Jenkins, Betty
Dunagan, Brandon Work.

Several have been sick at home this week.

WJ Wood is at Salem Health & Rehab.

Jonnie Charles has stage 4 lymphoma and will start chemo treatments soon.

Teresa Haywood, wife of Abingdon's minister, is in NC recovering from surgery.

Garrett Laplante had minor surgery on Friday.

Happy Birthday this week to:
Grace Earnhart—12/21
Chelsea High—12/21
Marguerite Charles—12/23
Sandra Neighbors—12/25
Lori Cook—12/27
Kylie White—12/28



DECEMBER ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS: Vanilla Wafers & Dream Whip envelopes. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



MILITARY

In Iraq:

Major Erich T Felps,
HN Aaron T Stricklin



Helping the Grieving—cont. from page 1

2. **Feel With Them.** Don't try to push people away from their feelings. Do not tell people they do not need to grieve or cry. They need to cry. Let them express doubt, anger, disappointment, guilt, or whatever they feel. "Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits" (Rom. 12:15,16).

3. **Don't Forget their Physical Needs.** They may need food, transportation, someone to help house guest, or even pay bills. If you see a need, do not wait until you have an official request. Take action and do it!

4. **Learn From Them** People who are dealing with death are "coming to grips with their own mortality." And so must we. It is clear that life is brief and that death is an appointment we all must face. "...For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14). "...It is appointed unto man once to die..."(Heb. 9:27).

By: Levi Sides, Jasper, AL, via The Words of Truth

ADDRESS UPDATE TIME Please check the board in the hallway to verify all information for your family. If you have someone close to you that is unable to do this (i. e. college students/elderly) please check his or her information also. Make any corrections (legibly) or mark your info as correct. Do not make me have to hunt you down in a few weeks!!!!!!

- Jo Ann



F Y I

For Your Information



Teens

December Dates

December 21—Cookie Exchange
December 31—Youth Game Night—8PM

Bible Bowl Questions are available!!
Mark your calendars now for March 7. We will also be having the Bidy 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: **December 21**; January 4 & 18; February 8 & 22. Mock Bible Bowl will be held on Feb 14 at 9 AM. Breakfast will be provided. See Jim or Charlotte Harrington for details.

BIBLE STUDY SURVEY

There are special Bible Study Survey sheets on the table in the foyer. Please fill one of these out and return it to Eddy or Jo Ann with the next two weeks. It will assist greatly in sermon and class preparations for 2009.

CARDS & CRAFTS

The Ladies Cards & Crafts will meet today at 5:00 in the fellowship hall to work on another fun project. Make plans to be there! See Melissa Rogers for details.

YOUTH GROUP COOKIE EXCHANGE

The youth group will be having a cookie exchange tonight after services in the fellowship hall. Everyone needs to bring at least 12 cookies. Punch and hot chocolate will be available. After sampling everyone gets a bag to take home cookies!!! See Jo Ann for details.

PRIMARY TEACHER MEETING

The next Primary Teachers meeting will be on Jan. 11 at 4:30. Cradle roll teachers are in charge of snacks.

STAFFORD VISIT

Cy & Cindy Stafford plan on being here on January 18 to give an update on the work in Tanzania, Africa. Make plans now to attend.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN MARRIAGE RETREAT

The 2009 Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat will be on February 11-14 in Pigeon Forge, TN. Brad Hubbard and James Watkins will be the guest speakers for the retreat. See the board for more details!!

WOW

They're back!! Beginning in January, Don & Mitzi Pettit will once again be overseeing the WOW group activities. We are appreciative of their desire to serve again. Thank you, Don & Mitzi!!

Please sign up on the WOW board for the video Autobiographies being done by Richard Simms.

Next WOW meeting will be on Tuesday, December 9, at 10:30.

Upcoming Events:



The Teams will combine and have a New Year's Eve Celebration here at the building on Wednesday, December 31, after services. Bring your favorite

dessert and games; coffee and beverages will be provided.



“The End” (4)

December 2008

Announcements	Mike Durham
Song Leader (AM)	David Brown
Opening Prayer (AM)	
12/7	Collin Gregory
12/14	Glen Hartman
12/21	Bobby Martin
12/28	Charlie Gwaltney
Preside at Communion	Danny Guard
Serve Table	Jim Harrington Norris Gearhart Bradford Durham Garrett Durham
Closing Prayer	
12/7	Jim Cooke
12/14	Jeremy White
12/21	Sam Valentine
12/28	Luke Guard
Song Leader (PM)	Eric Earnhart
Opening Prayer (PM)	
12/7	Squeaky Valentine
12/14	George Mellon
12/21	Richard Simms
12/28	Jeff Durham
Scripture Reader	Sam Valentine
Closing Prayer (PM)	
12/7	Paul Mays
12/14	Barry White
12/21	Charlie Maness
12/28	Jason Oldham
Serve Table (PM)	Shawn Simms Ethan Rogers
Song Leader (Wed)	Sam Valentine
Prayer (Wed)	
12/3	Tom Rogers
12/10	Charlie Gwaltney
12/17	Charlie Puckett
12/24	Mitch Jearls
12/31	Mark Brooks
Open/Close Bldg	Squeaky Valentine
Greeters	Glen & Sandra Neighbors Bobby & Peggy Paxton
Nursery Attend	Amanda Brown Kim Brown
Ushers	Bob Garby Curtis Oakes
Handouts	David McFalls John Black Jeremy White Cameron Brown
Alternates	Lyn Shrader
Prepare communion	Lisa Valentine Jo Ann Edwards
Cards & Pencils	Jimmy Harrington Dylan Tyler

Last weeks attendance 12/14&17/08

Bible Class—124 Worship Service—180
Sunday Eve.—142 Wednesday Eve.—163
Contribution—\$5916

Number 2951
December 21, 2008

As we approach the end of 2008 we are considering the phrase “the end” as presented in Scripture. As noted, the phrase itself is found in 148 verses in the King James Version. We conclude our brief study of this subject with the words of Paul.

“Then cometh **the end**, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power” (I Cor. 15:24). The subject of chapter 15 is the resurrection of man, which is based upon the resurrection of Christ (I Cor. 15:1-22). Paul revealed that the resurrection of Christ would precede the resurrection of man, which resurrection would occur “at His coming” (I Cor. 15:23). His coming will take place “in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye” (I Cor. 15:52), “as a thief in the night” (I Thes. 5:2). The word “then” in I Corinthians 15:24 refers back to the time frame indicated in the latter portion of verse 23 (“at His coming”). It is “then” (at that time; the time of His coming) that “the end” comes.

“The end” under consideration in this context is obviously the end of time. At that time the Lord “shall have delivered up the kingdom to God.” The doctrine of premillennialism maintains that it is at His coming that He will *establish* His kingdom. Based upon this false doctrine, the passage should read, “then cometh the *beginning*.” However, inspiration records this as being “the end.”

As further acknowledgement that the kingdom is now in existence and not awaiting the second coming of Christ to be established, Paul states, “For He must reign, till He hath put all enemies under his feet. The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death” (I Cor. 15:25, 26). The little word “till” indicates that He is now reigning as king, and shall continue to do so until some point. That point is “at His coming.” In order for Him to be reigning as King, He must have a kingdom. That kingdom is the church (Mt. 16:18, 19), His spiritual kingdom (Jn. 18:36). If it were an earthly kingdom He could not serve as its king, since He serves as both priest and king simultaneously (Zech. 6:12, 13) and could never serve as a priest on earth (Heb. 8:4). Paul declares that “at His coming,” death (the final enemy) will be destroyed. It is “at His coming” (at “the end”) that death will be utterly and ultimately destroyed by the resurrection of all men from the dead.

-Eddy