

I Felt It In My Heart

More and more professional pulpiteers who describe themselves as 'dynamic', 'energetic', 'motivating', and 'charismatic' are telling their listeners what they 'feel in their heart' as opposed to what they

glean from God's holy Book. Bible quoting has given way to touching stories and emotional pleas and too often the "people love to have it so" (Jeremiah 5:31).

What the 'new breed' of preacher overlooks is that Christianity is a religion designed to appeal to the intellect and then the emotion. The 'feeling' that one develops in his or her heart is supposed to be attained by intellectual means and mental industry. The 'feelings in the heart' are to result from thoughts of the mind. Instead, many preach thoughts that are results of 'feelings in the heart' (emotions).

The Bible says, "And Jehovah saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was on evil continually" (Gen. 6:5). Indeed, the Bible indicates that the 'heart' has thoughts, not emotions. If we trust upon 'what we feel in our hearts' we are apt to teach and to believe error, "The fool has said in his heart there is no God" (Ps. 14:1). Though the fool's heart, or emotions, tells him there is no God, an intellectual survey would inform him otherwise (Rom. 1:20). This offers ample proof that the old 'feeling down deep in the heart' could be a lie!

The Bible urges us to believe what we reason, study, test, and intelligently conclude to be factual based on Bible teaching (I Thes. 5:21; 2 Tim. 2:15; I Jn. 4:1; Acts 17:11). Men whose behavior pleased God were emotionally convicted because of a rational, intelligent examination of facts and truth (Acts 2:37). It is OK to have emotional feelings in Christianity; in fact, emotions are stirred every time inspired men preach the Word of God (Acts 4:2; 7:54; 8:39; 16:14; etc). But be careful not to allow your emotions to persuade you unless they are the result of Bible teaching.

The Elders

At the Close of '06

It is hard for many of us to believe, but another year has come and gone. Another leaf is almost ready to be torn from the calendar. Another clean page in our journal of life is just about ready for the ink. Time has marched steadily and ever-so-swiftly on. In order to look at 2006, we must now do so in the rearview mirror. Take a moment to examine this past year in just that fashion in a personal, spiritual way.

At the close of '06...do you see yourself having grown as a Christian? Did you develop better study habits or continue in the good study habits that you already had in place? Or, did you falter through the year and fail to keep your resolution to "do better?" Do you know more of God's Word now as you look in the rearview mirror than you did in January when the year was in full view out of your windshield? We all know that our God commands us to study His Word (II Tim. 2:15).

At the close of '06...are you more faithful in your attendance than ever before? If you have made it a practice to be faithful in worship and Bible study through the years this question is obviously not for you. But, for those whose attendance record is less than stellar, have you made the conscience effort to improve? Far too many have become lax in their view of the importance of assembling with their brethren. We are not to forsake such (Heb. 10:25), and doing so is blatant sin against God and His church.

At the close of '06...can you see where you have taught someone the gospel? As you peek back through the year can you see opportunities you took advantage of, or are those opportunities lying unobserved beside the road of life? Did you make the conscientious effort to sit down across the table with someone and study the Bible with them? If we do not teach, how can we call ourselves faithful Christians (Heb. 5:12-14)?

At the close of '06...do you see the need for much improvement in '07? None of us is perfect, but that statement is so often used as an excuse for not doing better. Certainly, each of us can improve, but there are some who need to make drastic changes in their lives. Are you among that number? - continued

Teens

December meeting dates:

Dec. 31—Teen Devo / game night after services

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

At the Close of '06—continued

Does the spiritual preview of '07 out of your windshield look just as bleak as the spiritual review of '06 in your rearview mirror? Why not determine now to make 2007 the best year of your life spiritually!

-Eddy

Kitchen Update

We are now waiting for the City of Salem to come and change over the power. Don't you just wish the government worked on our schedule!! So hopefully by the end of the year all that will be finished.

On the front of the building, the crew worked hard to install new pipe for drainage so that we don't have water in the foyer after heavy rains. As soon as weather allows they will be pouring new sidewalks.

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!!

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!!

Westside's Older Workers

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

Thank You: To all who provided items for the WOW holiday baskets and all who assisted in preparing them. Your efforts are appreciated.

Happy Holidays! - Don & Mitzi



Congratulations

Congratulations to Paul Faw and Eloise Murray who were married last Tuesday, December 19, by Don Pettit.

Wasted Years

I looked upon a farm one day,
That once I used to own;
The barn had fallen to the ground
The fields were overgrown.

The house in which my children grew,
Where we had lived for years -
I turned to see it broken down,
And brushed aside the tears.

I looked upon my soul one day,
To find it too, had grown
With thorns and thistles everywhere
The seeds neglect had sown.

The years had passed while I had cared
For things of lesser worth;

SICK

Effie Wimmer is home after a stay in the hospital and **E.V. Wimmer** is feeling a lot better after his procedure on Wednesday.

Grace Myers fell and fractured her foot but is doing ok.

Gary Sartain is recovering from knee surgery.

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

Sandy Garby will be having tests and procedures next week to determine a course of action for her further recovery.

Ruth Stanton was in LGH earlier this week with an infection. She is now at her daughter's home.

Bessie Gilpin, Eddy's grandmother, is in ICU in Alabama.

Remember the following in prayers: **Teresa White, Larry Phillips, Luetta Gregory, Glenna Richardson, Dan Hudgins.**



Happy Birthday this week to:

Sandra Neighbors—12/25

Kay Anderson—12/29

George Mellon—12/30

Melissa Rogers—12/30

Squeaky Valentine—12/31

Happy Belated Birthday to: Chelsea High and Grace Earnhart—

12/21



Happy Anniversary

this week to:

Oliver & Mariam Majors—12/27



MILITARY: Ty Stricklin at 29 Palms Marine Base, **Jonathan Simpson, John**

ISLAM CLASS

Tom Rogers class on Islam will not be meeting this morning. Please attend Eric Earnhart's class on Psalms in the auditorium. Tom will be back next week.

OFFICE

I will be out of the office until late afternoon on Wednesday. Please e-mail any events or bulletin information to me at jo12164@yahoo.com. - Jo Ann

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.

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!!

DIRECTORIES

The directory is in its final stages. If you have ANY address changes since October 1. Please write them out and give to Michelle Earnhart immediately.

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 West Side 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.

Shannon and Gabriel Hayes who are in Iraq. **Jonathan Chumley**, Kosovo.

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 12/17&20/2006

Bible Class—144 Worship Service—182

Evening Worship—141 Wed. Service—152

Contribution—\$6554

December 24, 2006