

Lessons from Noah's Ark (Gen. 6)

One: Don't miss the boat. Be prepared spiritually for the many changes we'll face in our lifetimes. Don't allow worldly temptations to distract us from the important goal of reaching Heaven. "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:14)

Two: Remember that we are all in the same boat. God gives us all the choice to decide for ourselves about serving Him; no favoritism. "And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning *here* in fear:" (1 Peter 1:17)

Three: Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark. "The ants *are* a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;" (Prov. 30:25)

Four: Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big! Take care of this physical body that God gave us so we might serve Him longer and better. "What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?" (1 Cor. 6:19)

Five: Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done. If Noah had listened to his critics, he and his entire family would have been lost.

Six: Build your future on high ground. Don't settle for the "easy", earthly goals. "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." (Col. 3:1-2)

Seven: For safety's sake, travel in pairs. In Gen. 2:18, God made Eve for Adam because He saw it wasn't good for him to be alone. Having good, Christian friends is a great "safety net" to encourage one another towards good things.

Eight: Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs. "I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race *is* not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favor to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all." (Eccl. 9:11)

Nine: When you're stressed, float a while. Learn how to "chill out", back away from a problem or a tense situation instead of continuing to "plow on through it". "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us," (Heb. 12:1)

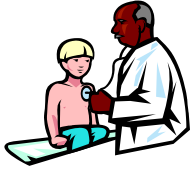
Ten: No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting. In Gen. 9:12-14, God created the "bow" in the sky as proof of His promise to never again flood the entire earth with water. Jesus promised us in John 14:1-4 that He was going to Heaven to prepare a place for those who remain faithful to Him. He kept His promise about no more worldwide floods; He'll keep His promise about an Eternal Reward.

Try to remember these simple lessons from one of the best-know Bible stories in the whole world. (adapted)

Continue to remember in prayer:

Sick

Margaret Kratz, Miriam Majors, Walter Jenkins, Jim Dorsett, E.V. Wimmer, Martha Keith, WJ Wood, Al Furrow, Lyn Anderson, Marguerite Charles, Jo Musgrove, Evelyn Scott, Teresa White, Gene Benefield, Ruth Stanton, Tanner Reed



- Danny White, Barry's brother, is in LGH.
- Betty Jenkins is home after her stay in the hospital.
- David Harrison, friend of the Edwards, was hit by a car while on his bike. Suffered several injuries and spent a few days in the hospital.
- Wanda Martin's father fell last week.

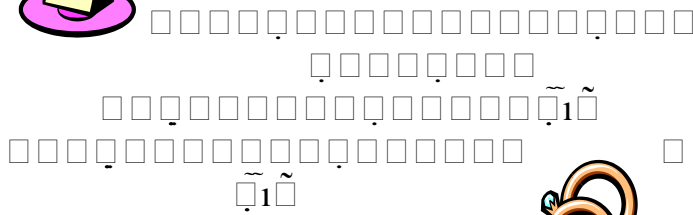
Happy Birthday this week to:

Sydney Durham—1/25

Jerry Anderson—1/26

Fred Altizer—1/30

Jennifer Laplante—1/30



Military



Jay Martin—Afghanistan
Katy Halling—Haiti
Angela Halling—Haiti

JANUARY ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS:

Clear packing tape & dry erase markers. (these items are desperately needed) Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



Upcoming Events:



See your Team Leader to see what's going on!

Teens

January Dates



January 31—Young Men conduct services.

Bible Bowl is set for March 6
Study Guides are available!

The Mock Bible Bowl has been rescheduled for Feb. 20th. at noon. It's for ALL youth to pre-test their Bible Bowl knowledge before the actual Bible Bowl on March 6th. Youth & Parents should reserve this date on their calendars now! Pizza will be available.

WOW

The next regular meeting will be on February 9 at 10:30.

There will be a
Wedding Reception
on January 31
after evening services
for



Matt & Melissa Marshall Yarbro.

They will be married in T□□□□□
□□□.□□□□ they will be residing in
Salem. Gift suggestions include:
Home Improvement Gift Cards, Wal-
mart/Kroger Gift Cards and Restau-
rant Gift Cards. Please join us to
congratulate this new couple.

Weekly Reminders

For Your Information

Prayer List:

Marguerite Charles	Amanda Pettit
Lyn Anderson	Evelyn Scott
Martha Keith	Jean Peterson
Miriam Majors	Tanner Reed
Walter & Betty Jenkins	Ruth Stanton
WJ Wood	Debbie Bumbalough
Margaret Kratz	Jo Hartman
Jim Dorsett	Glenn & Ruth Hartman
E.V. Wimmer	Vernon & Carol Daniels
Charlie Puckett	Sandra Wood
Jo Musgrove	Gene Benefield
Al Farrow	Michelle Earnhart
Ben Nikkel	Danny White

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□
□□□□□□

January 2010

Announcements: Jerry Anderson
 Song Leader (AM): Eric Earnhart
 Communion: Jeff Durham (preside)
 C. Brown, E. Mickens, J. Bush, G. Durham
 Prayer: Wayne Dixon (open)
 Greg Edwards (close)
 Next week prayer: Bob Garby (open)
 Glenn Gabbard (close)

Song Leader (PM): Sam Valentine
 Scripture Reader: Bradford Durham
 Prayer: Mitch Jearls (open)
 Marc Laplante(close)
 Next week prayer: Charlie Maness (open)
 Bab Martin (close)
 Communion: Paul Mays, Roger Mays

Song leader (Wed): Josh Whitlow
 Prayer: Ethan Rogers
 Next week prayer: Garrett Durham

Open/Close Building: Mike Durham
 Greeters: Benefields, Paxtons
 Nursery: Rebecca Durham (AM)
 Judy Durham (PM)
 Ushers: Curtis Oakes, Squeaky Valentine
 Handouts: Mark Brooks, Paul Faw
 Prepare Communion: Kay Anderson
 Kim Brown

Attendance 1/17&20/10
 Bible Class—140 Worship Service—156
 Sunday Eve—120 Wednesday—127
 Contribution—\$5595

January □□, 2010 Number 310□

UPDATE INFORMATION

Please check the board to verify your address information. The new directory will be posted in the 2010 Plan of Works. This list will be up until Wednesday.

LADIES NIGHT OUT (update)

The January Ladies Night Out will be held at the Salem House Restaurant on January 28 at 6 PM. Cost is \$13 + tax. See Amanda Brown or Yvette Mays for more details.

TURN TURN TURN

There will be a meeting of the T3 Planners today at 4:30. We are looking for those who have never helped to prepare for this event to come and bring your ideas!

MARRIAGE SEMINAR

The Elizabethton, TN congregation will be holding a Marriage Seminar with guest speakers, Eddy & Jeanny Gilpin. See details on the board and let Eddy know if you are interested on going.

EDUCATION APPRECIATION BANQUET

All Bible teachers and education workers/helpers, spouses, and special friends are invited to attend the Education Appreciation Banquet on February 6 at 5:45. Please sign up by January 31.

SMOKY MOUNTAIN MARRIAGE RETREAT

You still have time to sign up for this great workshop. February 18-20. See Poster in the hallway for details!

SINGING WORKSHOP WITH BURT JONES

There will be a singing workshop on February 27 from 2-4 PM with Burt Jones. He will conduct a Song Leaders Training Class during Sunday Bible School and deliver a sermon during our worship time.

2009 CONTRIBUTIONS

If you will be needing letters for your 2009 contributions, please send the information to Tom, JoAnn or one of the elders as soon as possible. Thanks in advance!

REMINDERS

Please turn off your cell phones and if you are the last one out of the building please check all lights (including bathrooms!) Thanks

First 100 Days

“Exceptions” to the Rule (7)

Jan. 24 (Romans 8)

- Read Romans 8 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 8
- Spiritual nature of the new life in Christ
 - Memorize Rom. 8:1
 - Write a note or card this week
- *Increase your contribution by \$1 today

Jan. 25 (Romans 9)

- Read Romans 9 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 9
 - Why the Jews were rejected and the Gentiles accepted
- Memorize Rom. 9:33

Jan. 26 (Romans 10)

- Read Romans 10 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 10
 - Israel's only hope- the gospel
- Memorize Rom. 10:17

Jan. 27 (Romans 11)

- Read Romans 11 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 11
 - Jewish rejection is not irrevocable
- Memorize Rom. 11:22

Jan. 28 (Romans 12)

- Read Romans 12 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 12
 - Practical matters of Christianity
- Memorize Rom. 12:2

Jan. 29 (Romans 13)

- Read Romans 13 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 13
 - The Christian and the state (1-7)
 - The law of love (8-10)
 - Spiritual awakening (11-14)
- Memorize Rom. 13:1

Jan. 30 (Romans 14)

- Read Romans 14 three times today
- Pray today
- Memorize contents of Romans 14
 - Christian freedom and optional matters
- Memorize Rom. 14:12

Like all Bible words, the word “except” is important. It is found 74 times in 72 verses in the King James Version. It is important because it points out the exception(s) to the rule or statement given. And, in most cases, unless the exception(s) had been stated, the result(s) or consequence (s) would have been devastating. We continue, looking at instances of its occurrences in the New Testament.

Last week we noticed a statement by Nicodemus (Jn. 3:2). This week we continue in that same context. Following the statement Nicodemus made, Jesus replied with this basic sentence: “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, he [man] cannot see the kingdom of God” (Jn. 3:3). Now, since the kingdom and the church are one and the same (cf. Mt. 16:18, 19), and since the saved are added to the church/kingdom by the Lord (Acts 2:47), the kingdom/church is all important (cf. Eph. 5:23). This being the case, for Jesus to say that man “cannot see the kingdom of God” would have had dreadful consequences. It would have had not Jesus stated the exception. His full statement reads: Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” The exception (and the only exception) is that man must be “born again.” From this statement itself, one cannot know what being “born again” is. We must allow the Bible to define its terms for us.

Jesus further stated in this context, “Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God” (Jn. 3:5). Not only is this another example of an exception (without being “born of water and the Spirit” one cannot “enter into the kingdom”), it also helps clarify what being “born again” exactly is. In this statement we find that it involves two elements: water and the Spirit. The “water” involved in this new birth is baptism (cf. Acts 8:36; I Pet. 3:20, 21). Paul stated that we are saved by “the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost” (Tit. 3:5). He told the Corinthians, “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit” (I Cor. 12:13). Thus, the “Spirit” involved with being “born again” is the Holy Spirit, Whose directives come through the word He inspired. Thus, unless one is baptized in accordance with the teachings of the Holy Spirit (given in the New Testament) he “cannot see the kingdom of God.” There are no exceptions to this rule.

(To be continued.)

-Eddy