

Challenge Unaccepted

Our Fall gospel meeting for 2006 is history. The gospel was preached in a wonderful way, the singing was uplifting, the fellowship was sweet and the responses encouraging. However, the challenge that was issued was unaccepted by so many. Our speaker, Keith Mosher, stated that he had never been a part of a gospel meeting in which every one who attended on Sunday morning came back for every service during the week. He challenged us to be the first. Some of you let us down.

To be fair, it was not possible to have the same audience assembled every evening during the week. We had visitors from out of town who were traveling and were not in the area for the remainder of the week. There were some who were sick (some who weren't even able to be with us Sunday morning because of sickness) and, thus, were physically unable to accept the challenge. There were some of our number who had legitimate commitments already in place that prevented their being here. However, the vast number of those who failed to assemble with their brethren did so out of neglect, purely and simply. It is to you this article is addressed.

Be honest with yourself (God already knows your heart). Were you among the number that could have been here but chose not to do so? Did you put other things ahead of your service to your God, in direct violation of Matthew 6:33? Did you let things of the world interfere with your responsibility to things eternal (II Corinthians 4:18)? Have you allowed yourself to become one who is *"in need of milk and not of strong meat"* (Hebrews 5:12)? Were you worshipping an idol (an idol is anything that comes between you and God) while your brethren were worshipping God? Did you let inconvenience, laziness, friendship, entertainment, a hobby, discontent or unconcern prevent you from praising the very God Who created you? Did you miss an opportunity to have the company of your brethren in the Lord for the opportunity to be in the company of people in the world? Did you value the dollar above your commitment to Christ (continued)

TIME: A Precious Commodity

Time is precious. It was created by God for man's wise use. Consider five minutes. It does not seem

like much, but look what can happen in that time:

- ▶ In five minutes the earth revolves 6,000 miles in its orbit.
- ▶ In five minutes an electric current travels around the earth 3,000 times.
- ▶ In five minutes a ray of light travels 55.9 million miles.

Now, consider what five minutes can do in the realm of spirituality:

- ▶ Five minutes of prayer each day will greatly influence your life.
- ▶ Five minutes spent on the phone to a shut-in can be rewarding to both them and you.
- ▶ Five minutes spent making personal visits can sow the seed of kindness and friendship.
- ▶ Five minutes encouraging a new Christian can influence them for eternity.
- ▶ Five minutes spent visiting the sick will spread some love where it is needed most.
- ▶ Five minutes spent reading the Bible will allow you to read through each of the following books: Joel, Obadiah, Jonah, Nahum, Habakkuk, Haggai, Malachi, Titus, Philemon, II Peter, II and III John and Jude.

So much can be accomplished in five short minutes. Let us wisely use the time God gives and try to make every moment count toward giving Him the glory and serving His people.

Paul D. Kearby

Challenge Unaccepted (continued)

(Colossians 3:5)?

Dear brother or sister, if you were among those who neglected your duty to God, your brethren and those outside the body of Christ by your intentional or neglectful failure to assemble during this gospel meeting, you need to repent and ask God and God's people to forgive you (James 5:16). Christianity is a much more serious matter than you pretend it to be. In the immortal words of Paul, "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth" (Galatians 4:16)?

Eddy

I Didn't Sign Up for This

Sadly, these were the actual words of a reserve soldier who refused to report for duty when her unit was called up for active service in the Gulf War. This person desired the army pay and playing army a couple of weeks out of the year, but she had no intention of being a real soldier when war-time came.

Maybe this is part of our problem as Christians. Are we signing up for the blessings in Jesus but refusing to go to service? Do we realize that Christians are soldiers enlisted in the army of King Jesus? We need to listen to the words of the Apostle Paul: "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (II Timothy 2:3).

In Paul's effort to teach us about endurance, he used three illustrations of hard workers. The first is a soldier. Paul pointed out that the soldier had enlisted to serve his commander, not himself. Is your Christianity pleasing to Christ?

The second illustration of Paul is an athlete competing in the games. Paul said he will not be crowned a champion unless he competes according to the rules. Cheaters are those who cut corners because they are not willing to pay the price.

The third example is the hard-working farmer. To enjoy the crop, the farmer works hard at planting, weeding and watering. Without the hard work beginning in April and continuing until harvest, the farmer will not have a crop.

We may not have signed up for the struggles of the kingdom (Acts 14:22), but that is the reality. Do we want to be real soldiers of Jesus, or are we just striking a pose? "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" (James 1:12).

Bruce Daugherty

via Religious Reminder, Watterson Trial c/C, Louisville, KY

Someone gave me a smile today;
I tried my best to give it away,
But everyone that I could see
Would give my smile right back to me!
When I got home, beside one smile,
I had enough to reach a mile!

Hang In There

Do you ever have days where nothing goes your way? Do you ever have the feeling that everything that can go wrong will go wrong or has already gone wrong? We all feel like that sometime. Whenever we do feel that way, we need to remember the words of James, "My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing" (James 1:2-4).

In his analysis of the Christian life James sees three steps—trials, patience, spiritual maturity—and each step of the way requires lessons learned from the previous step. The road to spiritual maturity has many trials. The problems and trials we face in our lives are not to be viewed as roadblocks or detours to be impatiently endured, but are viewed as a step toward our goal of complete maturity. We cannot get to where God wants us to be without going through them. They are a part of how God develops us to our full potential. Problems and trials are to be viewed with joy, not because we actually enjoy them, but because they are a part of God's plan for us.

James states that the problems and trials that come our way are not to be viewed casually, but as spiritual matters. He says that each problem or trial is a testing of our faith. It is a test to show our special character. The test is not designed to cause us to fail, but it is designed to cause us to succeed. Each problem and trial that we succeed in overcoming, the stronger we become.

Each success leads us toward spiritual maturity. In one sense it is an ideal because no one becomes perfect in this life. However, there is still the attainable goal of reaching our potential for God in this life. As long as we are striving to live the way God wants us to live, His grace will bring us to where God wants us to be.

Viewing problems and trials with joy is not easy, because it goes against human nature. Human nature is to be sad and angry when things do not go as we feel they should. It takes a special kind of wisdom and understanding to view problems and trials with joy. This wisdom and understanding comes from God, and all we have to do to receive it is simply "ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5). God will give this wisdom and understanding abundantly and with love and understanding.

When we face problems in our lives, we need more than ever to put our faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ because He knows what we are going through and how we are feeling (Hebrews 4:14-16). The message of James is, "Hang in there, trust the Lord, and you will make it."

—Kip Adams

Via The South Florida Avenue Messenger, Lakeland, FL

"My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth" (Proverbs 3:11, 12).

SICK

Caleb Guard spent time in the ER w/kidney pain this week; doctors suspect kidney stones. **Novel Foley**, Josh Whitlow's grandfather, has a malignant mass on his liver; prognosis is poor. **Jeremy Werness (31)**, friend of Kim Brown, has been diagnosed w/an aggressive form of lymphoma (He has an 18-month old daughter). **Jessie Williams**, (mid-50s) who visited with us this Summer, is facing two hip replacement surgeries and has asked for our prayers.

Continue to remember: **Herbert Baker, Sharon Basham** (recovering from surgery for ovarian cancer), **Norma Biller, Sandy Bowles** (recovering well from surgery), **Betty Buckner, Willard Campbell, Charlotte Chandler, Tonya Chandler, Marguerite Charles, Helen Coggsdale, Harry DeHart, Jim Dorsett, Curtis Doss** (improving), **Paul Faw, Bonnie Gabbard, Tony Glass, Collin & Luetta Gregory, Patti Gwaltney, Glenn & Jo Hartman, Jimmy Helms, Dan Hudgins, A.C & Mickie Janney, Betty Jenkins, Martha Keith, Margaret Kratz, Laven, Sophia Mays, Donnie & Susan Mountcastle, Jo Musgrove, Grace Myers, Larry Phillips, Don Prunty, Georgia Pyott, Murphy & Evelyn Scott, Annette Shrader, Ruth Stanton, Chastity Stricklin, Jim Weaver, Evelyn White, E.V. & Effie Wimmer, Everett Witty, W.J. Wood, Greg Yotka**

RESTORED: Mark Brooks, Bridgette Bush, Susan Duff, Mike Durham, Tom Richardson

MISSIONARIES: the Staffords and the TZ2000 team.

MILITARY: Ty Stricklin, John Shannon and Gabriel Hayes who are in Iraq. Jonathan Chumley, Kosovo; Jonathan Simpson, Iraq.

OTHER: Bonnie Mellon is in Arkansas w/her mom, Dorothy Mason, for the next several weeks while her mom undergoes evaluation regarding her living status. On-going Bible studies; "Restore 2006."

THIS WEEK AT WEST SIDE

Today: W.O.W. lunch, Harbor Inn, followin am svc. **Danny Guard's sub-group, T.4, K&W** after am svc. Jr. High-Adult teachers' meeting, 4:30pm. Farewell to the **Boys & Freda Overton** after pm. Svc.

Monday: Happy birthday to **Barbara Foley & Shannon Lowe (16)!**

Tuesday: Happy birthday to **Mary Ellen Crowe!**

Wednesday: Meeting time, 7pm. Happy birthday to **Becky Cooke!** Happy anniversary to **Bobby & Wanda Martin!**

Friday: Happy birthday to **Patti Gwaltney!**

Saturday: "The Army of God" (Leadership, Cooperation, Evangelism), Princeton c/C, 9am-noon, E. Main ST, Princeton, WV. Teams 1 & 4 host costume party at the Edwards', 6:30pm. Everyone invited. Sign-up sheet posted.

Sunday, 10/29: Young men conduct evening services.

NEW BOOKS

The four-volume set of The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia by James Orr has been placed in the library by **Paula Gibson** in memory of Mary Jo Wilson Sartain.

NEW ADDRESSES

Ortie & Patsy Boyd, 129 N. Wentworth DR, Mocksville, NC, 27028 (after 10/31); **Ty Stricklin**, P.O. Box 6092, 29 Palms, CA 92278.

MISSING

One of the round tablecloths is missing from the fellowship room. If you have it, please return it.

TEAM 4 (ROGERS)

Be sure to bring bags of individually wrapped candies to put in Fall treat bags for Potter Children's Home. See **Tom** or **Melissa** if you have questions.

TEAMS 1 (DUFF) & 4 (ROGERS) COSTUME PARTY

Saturday, 10/28, 6:30pm at the Edwards'. Everyone is invited. A sign-up sheet and details are posted on the board.

OCTOBER ITEMS FOR STAFFORDS

Torengos (tortilla chips in a can), zip lock bags (any size)

Mama, My Teacher

Mama, are you ready?
It's time for Bible class.
I've done my Bible lesson,
Even though you didn't ask.

"Honey, we can't make it,"
A sleepy mother says.
"You see, I was up so very late,
I have to get some rest."

As the month pass so quickly,
The little boy still asks,
"Why don't we go to worship every week
Or go to every class?"

"Last week was Mary's softball game;
It lasted until late.
Three weeks ago, your brother studied
For a test he had to take."

Mama explains things perfectly.
It's all so crystal clear.
We will go to Bible class
When nothing interferes.

Five years have passed; the boy's a teen—
He's into everything.
With sports, school and all his friends,
There's not time for his King.

"Son, are you ready?
It's time for Bible class.
Did you do your Bible lesson?
I thought that I should ask."

"Mom, why are you asking all this now?
You never did before.
I have too much to do today
To give it to the Lord."

Mama cries herself to sleep;
She does it every night,
Wishing she could turn back time
And raise her children right.

Emily Martin Richey
via Augusta Rd c/C, Greenville, SC

Opportunities to Serve **October 2006**
Announcements..... Eric Earnhart
Reader (PM)..... Luke Guard
Preside..... Charles Maness
Serve... Fred Altizer, Jerry Anderson, Garrett Durham, Luke Guard
(PM) Mark Brooks, Paul Mays

Opening Prayer
10/1..... Tom Duff, (PM) Greg Edwards
10/8..... Jim Bush, (PM) Herbert Baker
10/15..... Charles Gwaltney, (PM) Crawford Keith
10/22..... Bob Garby, (PM) Collin Gregory
10/29..... David Brown, (PM) Youth

Closing Prayer
10/1..... Glenn Hartman, (PM) Jeff Durham
10/8..... Squeaky Valentine, (PM) Tom Richardson
10/15..... Charlie Puckett, (PM) Bobby Martin
10/22..... Don Pettit, (PM) Jerry Anderson
10/29..... Ethan Rogers, (PM) Youth

Greeters..... McFalls, Paxtons
Open/Close Building..... Tom Rogers
Care of Communion.. L. Maness, B. Mellon; alternate, K. Munsey

Song Leaders
Sunday... (AM) J. Durham, (PM) A. House... (Wed.) P. Mays
Care of Baptismal Garments..... Jenni Sprouse
Ushers..... Danny Guard, George Mellon
Nursery..... Kim Brown, (PM) Wanda Martin
Alternates..... Greg Edwards, Lyn Shrader
Handouts..... Claude Crowe, Glenn Hartman,
Squeaky & Sam Valentine
Doorman..... David Brown; alternate, Charles Gwaltney

OUR RECORD..... **10/11, 15, 2006**
Wednesday.....128
Sunday Bible Study.....162
Sunday Morning Worship..... 196
Sunday Evening Worship..... 147
Contribution..... \$5,467.00
Volume XXVII, Number 42 **October 22, 2006**

I Asked God...

* I asked God why I wasn't rich. He showed me a man with the wealth of a thousand kings who was lonely and had no one to share it with.

* I asked God why I wasn't beautiful. He showed me a woman more beautiful than any other who was ugly because of her vanity.

* I asked God why He'd allowed me to become old. He showed me a boy of 16, who lay dead at the scene of a car accident.

* I asked God why I didn't have a bigger house. He showed me a family of six who had just been evicted from a tiny shack and had to live on the street.

* I asked God why I had to work. He showed me a man who couldn't find a decent job because he'd never learned to read.

* I asked God why I wasn't more popular. He showed me a socialite with a thousand friends who all left the moment the money and parties were gone.

* I asked God why I wasn't smarter. He showed me a natural-born genius serving life in prison for making ill use of his knowledge.

* I asked God why He put up with a thankless sinner like me. He showed me His Bible. He showed me His Son.

"Why art thou cast down, O my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God" (Psalm 42:11).
—author unknown