

The Factor, Parental Faithfulness

I know that “statistics” don’t always tell all the story, but there really must be some good reason for studying them. Perhaps they do help us get a realistic hold on the status of things, so that we might better understand the needs of the future. At the very least they tend to “grab” our attention. Such were the statistics presented several years ago on the subject of drop-outs among our young people. (I wonder where today’s statistics would see things: would the figures be higher or lower?) here’s what they had to say:

“From the material that has been published on these studies, it seems to me that one great central truth has begun to emerge. Faithfulness of the young person to Jesus *doesn’t have anything to do with special programs or teachers*. It is not dependant on whether they are members of a large congregation or a small one. The single most important value is their own immediate family.”

“One congregation found that where both parents were faithful to the Lord, and that includes *active interest* in the local congregation’s programs, 93% of the kids remain faithful. On the other hand, if only one of the parents was faithful, that figure dropped to 73%. Where the parents were what we would call only reasonably active in the Lord’s work, only 53% of the young people maintained their faith.”

“Now, here comes the shocker: In those cases where both parents attended *only infrequently*, the percentage of their children who remained faithful to the Lord dropped to 6%.” (Joe Barnett)

Now, that tells us more than just saying we lose 50% of our youth during the teens years, doesn’t it? Let’s quit blaming the church and the youth programs for the failures. Nor can the credit be given for those who remain faithful to the church and such programs. There may be other things—such as the church needing to use the youth more—but I am certain that we, as parents, must shoulder the majority of the blame. After all, God gave the children to the parents and made the parents responsible for their souls (cf. Eph. 6:1-4)

Three Great and Ancient Questions

Eighth-century (B.C.) Israel and Judah were reveling in their bounty. Under the leadership of Jeroboam II (782-753 B.C.), Israel’s borders had been largely restored and she was enjoying prosperity like none since the days of Solomon. Under the reign of Uzziah (767-740 B.C.), Judah was prospering in a grand fashion as well. Though warned against it, led by Israel in her rampant idolatry, Judah was following the same course. The prophet Isaiah began his forth-telling work in the years just preceding the overthrow of Israel at the hands of Assyria. He warned Judah that the same fate would befall her (though at the hands of a different nation) if she failed to repent.

Isaiah 10:3 is found near the end of a section (Isa. 9:8-10:4) in which Isaiah is telling of the judgment upon Israel, the coming destruction by Assyria. Matters immediately preceding this section are Messianic in nature (cf. Isa. 9:1-7), and the section following this (10:5-34) involves Assyria’s role in Israel’s downfall and Assyria’s ultimate doom as well.

Isaiah 10:3 provides three great questions for consideration, originally posed to Israel, but pertinent to any time and people. The prophet asked: 1) “What will ye do in the day of visitation?” 2) “To whom will ye flee for help?” 3) “Where will ye leave your glory?” The “day of visitation” (as it does here) most often symbolizes a day of reckoning or judgment. If, like Israel, we have failed in being faithful to God, indeed what shall we do at that great day? To whom shall we go for assistance when that day comes? If unfaithful to God, we will have no more refuge than Israel when Assyria’s armies marched upon them. Peter’s question reveals the folly of thinking there is any other to whom we can go- “Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life” (Jn. 6:68). Where will we “leave our glory?” What will be the legacy we leave behind? All that we have worked to obtain will be left to those who care nothing for it or who use it for vile means if we fail, as Israel did, in training future generations to be loyal to their Lord. Our Lord spoke of such regarding the rich farmer when He said, “Thou fool, this night shall thy soul be required of thee: then whose shall all these things be, which thou hast provided?” (Lk. 12:20). Indeed, three great questions which still call for answers.

Teens

April Dates to Remember!

April 29—Youth conduct services

May Dates:

May 5—High School Banquet at Seven Hills

Eric Earnhart—speaker

May 6—TBS

May 20—Graduation Banquet

Registration forms are in the foyer for VCC, Horizons, and the bus. Fill them out and turn them in ASAP!

Dates for Teens:

June 17-23, 2007 VCC

July 1-6, 2007 Horizons Senior Week

July 8-13, 2007 Horizons Junior Week

Summer Youth Intern— *The elders are pleased to announce that Grat Tucker will be serving as our Youth Intern this summer beginning May 27. More information to follow.*

What Do You Do With Young Folks?

Ignore them ... and they will go away... Some return in later years to a love for Jesus, but most drift through life toward perdition.

Entertain them... and you will produce a society that stays long enough to empty the punch bowl and clean up the sandwich tray.

Humor them... and you can develop the concept that the church is a joke.

Educate them in the Bible... and you can expect them to know what they are to do as a Christian.

Lead them... in the ways of righteousness and you add strength to the church whose foundation is Christ.

Edify them...and they will continue to grow spiritually. Be their example of what is good.

Give them responsibility...and they can learn the value of service to God and others.

Love them... and they will be responsive.

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West Side's Older Workers

The WOW Group will be going to Harbor Inn after morning services.

The next regular meeting of the WOW Group will be by May 8 at 10:30.

Team Events

New Team events are going on!!! Check here every week for activities your team will be doing!

Team 1 - Tom Duff

Team 2 - Bob Garby

Trash Pick-up next Saturday at 7:30 AM. Meet at the Dixie Caverns exit.

A congregational picnic is scheduled May 19 at 4 p.m. at the Garby's home. Everyone welcome.

Team 3 - David Brown

Team 4 - Tom Rogers

What Are the Priorities at Your House?

What priorities will be established when...

*You are early for a ball game, but late for worship?

*You check their homework regularly, but never check their Bible class lessons?

*You won't let them stay up on school nights, but let them stay up late on Saturday night?

*You know the names of all their school teachers, but do not know who is teaching their Bible school classes, or what they are studying?

*You will serve as chaperone or volunteer at school, but will not help with classes, activities or programs which involve spiritual matters?

*You will not go on vacation during school days, but go on vacation during VBS or gospel meetings?

Yes, with such situations prevailing, what priorities are being established in the hearts of your children?

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SICK

Glenna Richardson had a CAT scan on Friday.

Marguerite Charles had a procedure last week for pain management.

Sandra Wood will be having surgery on April 30 to remove a small mass from her spine.

Evelyn White is scheduled for neck surgery on June 29 at UVA.

Liz Mullins, **Glenna's** cousin, is experiencing several medical difficulties.

Gary Sartain will be undergoing another round of cancer treatments.

Effie Wimmer will be undergoing a medical procedure on May 4.

Remember the following in prayer: **Luetta Gregory, Larry Phillips, AC Janney, Betty Jenkins.**

Happy Birthday this week to:

Charmaine Bush—5/2, Martha Wood—5/4, Charlie Gwaltney—5/5

Happy Anniversary this week to: Ed & Jean Argabright—5/4

MARCH & APRIL ITEMS FOR STAFFORDS: Slim Jims & Bacon Bits. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!!

Thank You

Dear Brethren,

There aren't enough words to say thank you for your love and generosity to me and to Tommy. I am truly overwhelmed by them both. I generally do not see myself as clueless, but your surprise "retirement" party completely caught me off guard, and I apologize if I was rude to anyone.

The lovely Kincaid picture hangs in a place of honor in our home to remind us of the love and support we have received and that West Side really is the best side. May God bless you all for loving us and helping us grow toward heaven and for your support, especially these past six months. I love each and everyone of you.

-Glenna

MAKING MARRIAGE MORE MEANINGFUL

Huge thanks to all involved in making this event great!! - Too many people to mention, but you know who you are!!

TURN, TURN, TURN

There will be a T3 planning meeting today at 4:30.

YOUTH SERVICES

The youth will be conducting the services tonight. Plan on being here to support our young men!

LADIES WEDNESDAY EVENING CLASS

Charlotte Harrington will begin teaching this class on Wednesday and is enlisting the help of our more mature ladies to answer your questions. If you have questions for our ladies please give them to Charlotte ASAP.

VBS SCRIPTS

Just a friendly reminder, the VBS scripts need to be in to Greg Edwards on May 13.

WEDDING

If you plan on attending the wedding reception for Ashley White and Brett Jones, please sign up on the board before May 2 for catering purposes.

WEDDING

The wedding for **Andy Duran** and **Erin Leddy** will be May 26. Directions are on the board, and if you need a room, see Bob Garby.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

West Side Church of Christ will celebrate our 40th Anniversary/Homecoming on September 9, 2007. Please make plans now to be in attendance.

REGISTRATION FORMS

Please pick up your registration forms for VCC, Horizons, CTS and the Bus Trip. They are located in the foyer.

May 2007

Announcements Fred Altizer
Song Leader (AM) Jeff Durham
Opening Prayer (AM)
5/6 Danny Guard
5/13 Herb Baker
5/20 Barry White
5/27 Norris Gearhart
Preside at Communion Charles Maness
Serve Table Jim Harrington Charley Puckett
Adam House Jerry Anderson

Closing Prayer

5/6 Bobby Martin
5/13 Gene Benefield
5/20 Collin Gregory
5.27 Jim Bush
Song Leader (PM) Paul Mays

Opening Prayer (PM)

5/6 Tom Richardson
5/13 Claude Crowe
5/20 Don Pettitt
5/27 Crawford Keith
Scripture Reader Ethan Rogers

Closing Prayer (PM)

5/6 Greg Edwards
5/13 Lyn Shrader
5/20 Murphy Scott
5/27 Eric Earnhart
Serve Table (PM) Mike Durham Sam Valentine

Song Leader (Wed) Charlie Gwaltney

Prayer (Wed)

5/2 Jerry Anderson
5/9 Mark Brooks
5/16 AC Janney
5/23 Glenn Hartman
5/30 Squeaky Valentine

Door Man Bob Garby
Greeters Pettits Dixons
Nursery Attend R. Durham K. Jearls
Ushers John Black Curtis Oakes
Handouts Mark Brooks George Mellon
Garrett & Bradford Durham
Alternates Bob Garby
Prepare comm. M. Peverall S. Baker
Cards & Pencils N. Pelfrey S. Durham

Last weeks attendance 4/22 & 25/07

Bible Class— 154 Worship Service—185
Eve. Worship—129 Wed. Service—137
Contribution—\$5643