

Cloud by Day, Fire by Night

When the children of Israel were wandering through the wilderness toward the Land of Promise, we find an interesting event recorded in Exodus 13:21,22. "And Jehovah went before them by day in a pillar of cloud, to lead them the way, and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; that they might go by day and by night: the pillar of cloud by day, and the pillar of fire by night, departed not from before the people." Paul tells us in I Cor. 10:11, "Now these things happened unto them by way of example: and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come."

We have left the bondage of Satan, hoping to get to the Promised Land, but seem to be wandering in the Wilderness of Sin (Ex. 16:1). We sometimes are so surrounded by difficulty, disaster, danger and death that we have doubts that we will ever make it. We need to understand that God did not lead us out of bondage to abandon us in the wilderness. When Jesus gave the Great Commission, He promised His followers, "I am with you always" (Mt. 28:20). The confident words of the Psalmist should always be in our hearts to comfort and sustain us. "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art with me" (Ps. 23:4).

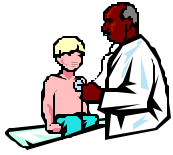
When Peter, James and John were on the "Mount of Transfiguration" a cloud overshadowed them. They could not see what or who was in the cloud, but they could hear His voice. It said, "This is my beloved Son; hear ye him" (Mk. 9:7). We do not need to know or see what is behind every cloud, but we do need to know that God is there, trying to lead us if we will but follow the voice of His Son.

If we have not really trusted in Jesus, understanding that He has all authority in heaven and on earth, we need to do that (Mt. 28:18). If we have not had a godly sorrow for our sins and a determination to stop sinning, we need to repent (Lk 13:3). If we have not confessed our faith in the Lord, we need to do that (Rom. 10:10). If we have not been baptized for the remission of our sins, we need to do that without delay (Acts 22:16). Have you been listening to the voice of men, or will you hear the Son?

- the elders

Sick

Continue to remember in prayer:



Marguerite Charles,
Margaret Kratz, Betty Jenkins, Crawford
& Martha Keith, Mariam Majors, Steve
Harrah, Mary Reese, Donna Sowers, Helen
Gianinni, Rodney Collins, Georgia Pyott,
Rene & Regina Perrier, Susan Stinett.

Nancy Benefield will be having surgery on Tuesday.

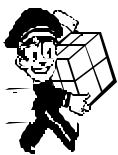
Buddy Martin will be going to Vanderbilt University for a stem cell transplant on Sept. 29. He will be in the area for 2 months.

Mark Brooks had a procedure on Friday.

Bill Paul, Jo Hartman's brother, has lung cancer and other breathing problems.

Josh Fleshman, grandson of Peggy Paxton, broke his collarbone.

Happy Birthday this week to:
Bethany Durham—10/5
Halle Edwards—10/5
Claude Crowe—10/5



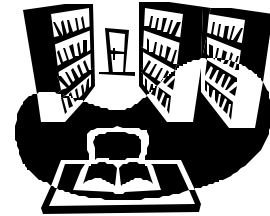
SEPTEMBER ITEMS FOR THE STAFFORDS: Dryel (at home dry cleaning) & tea bags (mandarin orange or mango). Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!

MILITARY

Kyle Nester, Erich Felps,
Chris Coleman, & Angela Ridgeon
—in Iraq
Katy Halling—aboard a Navy Ship
Ty Stricklin will be returning to Iraq in
October.
Dustin Humphreys - Camp LeJeune



In the Library: Focus Press has sent us complimentary copies of one of their newest DVDs: Faith for Life—7 Reasons We're Losing our Children and How to Save Them..



AN ETERNITY IN HELL IS NOT WORTHÖ

...having illicit sex or an unscriptural marriage...
even if it makes me happy for the moment.

...consuming alcohol or misusing drugs...
even if it gives me an escape for the moment.

...dressing immodestly or being indecent with my body...

even if it gains me attention for the moment.

...cheating in business or lying to others...
even if it makes me more wealthy for the moment.

...running with the worldly crowd or compromising my Christianity...

even if it makes me feel important for the moment.

...getting revenge or giving someone their just desserts ...

even if it makes me feel like I have gotten even for the moment.

...overspending my money or putting my family in financial stress...

even if I get the things I want for the moment.

...refusing to obey the gospel or repenting after having done so...

even if I feel saved for the moment.

~Edd Sterchi

F Y I

For Your Information



Teens

October Dates
October 12—Teen Bible Study—7:00

UPCOMING GOSPEL MEETING

Address labels for Gary Hampton are available on the table in the foyer. Please pick up a label and write a note of encouragement to Gary in his preparations for our upcoming meeting (October 19-22). Include him in your prayers and let him know you are doing so. Gary Hampton, 6612 Beaver Ridge Rd., Knoxville, TN 37931.

TURN, TURN, TURN

The annual Ladies Day will be on October 4 starting at 8:30.

AFRICA MISSIONS

Jim Bush and others will be returning on September 30.

EDP MEETING

The bi-monthly EDP meeting will be on October 5 at 4:00 in the fellowship hall.

BIKE & PICNIC

The first (and hopefully not last) Roanoke River Greenway Bike Ride and Picnic will be on October 11 at 3:30. Bring your bikes and come out to Smith Park to ride approx. 10 flat miles and enjoy a picnic afterwards. Those who don't want to ride can come by the park and plan on picnicking around 5:15. Sign up sheet on the board. See Greg Edwards for details.

NEW DATES

The Area-Wide Preachers meeting will be October 20 and the WOW Group meeting will be October 21 with guest speaker, Gary Hampton.

PRIMARY TEACHERS MEETING

Primary Teachers Meeting will be on October 26 at 4:30. All teachers are expected to attend so mark your calendars now. 4th & 5th Grade teachers are in charge of snacks.

WOW

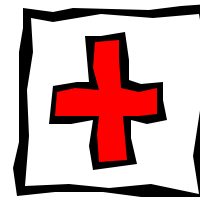
Please sign up on the WOW board for the video Autobiographies being done by Richard Simms.

Next WOW meeting will be on Tuesday, October 21, at 10:30.



Pounding for the Laplante and Oldham families is tonight after services. Baskets are located in the foyer. See Bob Garby for details.

Mary Halling is in Dumas, Louisiana assisting with the Red Cross efforts for those affected by the recent hurricanes. She is the shelter manager at a local Jr. High school. She has 83 patients over whom she has oversight for providing care. She is off today (Friday). She is working the late night shift starting at 11 PM. She misses everyone at West Side. If you would like to send her a note.



Upcoming Gospel Meetings

September 28-Oct. 1

Central Church of Christ with Ron Laughery

October 5-8

Southside in Galax with Tom House

October 12-15

Fort Chiswell with Dennis Curd

October 19-22

West Side with Gary Hampton

Upcoming Lectureships (See Board for details)

October 5-9

WV Christians Lectureship in Martinsburg, WV

November 6-9

Cold Harbor Lectureship In Mechanicsville, VA

October 2008

A Sure Investment

Announcements	Danny Guard
Song Leader (AM)	Jeff Durham
Opening Prayer (AM)	
10/5	Don Pettit
10/12	Jerry Anderson
10/19	Tom Rogers
10/26	Roger Mays
Preside at Communion	Tom Richardson
Serve Table	Glenn Gabbard Mark Brooks Bob Martin Garrett Durham
Closing Prayer	
10/5	Charlie Maness
10/12	Josh Whitlow
10/19	Charlie Gwaltney
10/26	George Mellon
Song Leader (PM)	David Brown
Opening Prayer (PM)	
10/5	Jim Harrington
10/12	Barry White
10/19	Paul Mays
10/26	Herb Baker
Scripture Reader	Bradford Durham
Closing Prayer (PM)	
10/5	Sam Valentine
10/12	Charlie Puckett
10/19	Gene Benefield
10/26	Mike Durham
Serve Table (PM)	Cameron Brown Nathan Pelfrey
Song Leader (Wed)	Josh Whitlow
Prayer (Wed)	
10/1	Garrett Durham
10/8	Cameron Brown
10/15	Ethan Rogers
10/22	Fred Altizer
10/29	Greg Edwards
Open/Close Bldg	Tom Rogers
Greeters	Barry & Gloria White Jeremy & Jessica White
Nursery Attend	Kay Anderson Jean Argabright
Ushers	John Black Curtis Oakes
Handouts	Gene Benefield Adam House Glenn Hartman Fred Altizer
Alternates	Lyn Shrader
Prepare communion	Dee House Melissa Marshall
Cards & Pencils	Jimmy & Caroline Harrington

Last weeks attendance 9/21&24/08

Bible Class—156 Worship Service—193
Sunday Eve.—131 Wednesday Eve.—133
Contribution—\$5621

Number 2939
September 28, 2008

Who can understand the current financial problems in our market? If the experts in the field are having trouble figuring out the solutions, it is certain that the ordinary citizen has very little chance of knowing what to do. It is a complex system to begin with. Add to that the deception, bad invest-

ments, fear and manipulations, and the complexity level rises to even greater heights.

What if, during these uncertain times, you could be offered a sure investment- one that would absolutely pay the greatest of dividends and guarantee the safety of your capital outlay? Would you take such an offer? Certainly, that would be an attractive offer at any time; but especially during such a tumultuous time as this. There is such an offer on the table for you.

Jesus said, "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Mt. 6:19-21). He further stated, "Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life" (Mk. 10:29, 30). What a plan! A guarantee of everything you have invested; a sure thing in times of uncertainty; an unparalleled return on your investment- and all backed by the greatest "Guarantor" ever! Who wouldn't want a part of that investment opportunity?

The sad fact is, many refuse the greatest investment opportunity ever. There are no market fluctuations that can alter it, no "run on a bank" that can stop it, no corrupt politicians that can destroy it, no institutions that can crash it, and no panic that can devalue it. It is the only sure investment we can make. Have you made the investment in this "opportunity of a lifetime?" The "market" is open now, but one day will close forever with no more opportunity (II Pet. 3:9-12). The time for investment is now (II Cor. 6:2).

-Eddy