

Long Walk Part of Gift

An African boy listened carefully as his teacher explained why Christians were such giving people. The teacher said, “Jesus taught us that giving gifts is an expression of our love and friendship for Him and each other. Jesus said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive’” (Acts 20:35).

A couple of days later the boy brought the teacher a seashell of lustrous beauty. “Where did you ever find such a beautiful shell?” the teacher asked. The youth told her that there was only one spot where such extraordinary shells could be found.

When he named the place, a certain bay several miles away, the teacher was speechless. She knew that it would have taken the young man hours to walk to the bay. Also, he would have faced many dangers from the jungle and rocky cliffs of the seacoast along the way. “Why, it’s gorgeous and wonderful, but you shouldn’t have gone all that way to get the gift for me,” the teacher joyfully explained.

His eyes brightening, the boy answered, “Long walk part of the gift.” (story adopted from *Preaching* Vol. 23, No. 3, p.88, 2007).

This story brings to mind the long walk that was part of God’s gift to mankind. I Peter 1:20-21 states that Jesus “was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.”

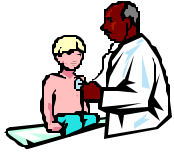
Christ’s long walk began in the mind of God before the foundation of the world, and was proclaimed by the prophets of the Old Testament. He then voyaged from heaven to earth to be born of a virgin, and He grew up to show people the way of heaven. He walked upon the earth and then went to a shameful cross to pay humanity’s debt of sin, journeyed from the cross to the tomb, was resurrected on the third day, and finally completed the journey by returning to heaven.

Hebrews 4:15-16 reminds us that “we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

And we may ask, “Why all this trouble, God?” And God would say to us, “The long walk was part of the gift.”

- by Mark T. Tonkery

Sick Oliver Majors spent some time in LGH last week.



Darlene Jenkins, niece of Elsie Smith, is in RMH.

Evelyn Scott is to see a lung specialist.

Continue to remember in prayer: **Marguerite Charles, Margaret Kratz, Betty Jenkins, Lynn & Mary Anderson, Crawford & Martha Keith, Martha Keplinger, JD Lawson, Collin Gregory.**

Happy Birthday this week to:



Eddy Gilpin—6/29
Linda Maness—6/29
Aleyna House—7/1
Sandra Wood—7/2
Katelyn Brown—7/5

Happy Anniversary this week to:

Dee & Adam House—6/29
Ben & Michelle Nikkel—7/4



JUNE ITEMS FOR THE

STAFFORDS: Ink pens and Poppy seeds. Give your items to Jeanny and she will ship them over!



MILITARY

Kyle Nester— in Iraq

Erich Felps—in Iraq

Chris Coleman—in Iraq



VBS

Water World at West Side

June 28—9:30 AM

What a great VBS!!! We had several visitors and congratulations to Conner Jearls for bringing the most!!!

A Special Thanks to all those who worked so hard to make this a great year!! (You know who you are!!)



Remembering VCC 2008...

Virginia Christian Camp was a wonderful week of Bible study and fellowship with Christian friends. We started out the week with an evening devotional from one of our longstanding traditional speakers, Charlie Gwaltney. On Monday night, we were pleased to have one of our elders, Jeff Durham, speak to our campers. During the week Eric Earnhart presented an excellent lesson on church singing, Jerry Anderson gave a well-developed lesson on sexual purity and Tom Duff encouraged the campers in his very first camp lesson. A special thanks to Melissa Rogers and Jo Ann Edwards, for serving as the camp's "Craft Queen" and "Craft Diva" respectively, to Eric Earnhart for creating a fantastic end of the week VCC slide show, to Velda, Norris and the kitchen staff for providing exceptional camp cuisine and to Squeaky Valentine and Jeff Reed for organizing the recreational activities. West Side was well represented at VCC this year, supplying the camp with a large percentage of its senior campers and three of the week's "Outstanding Campers," Claire Gray, Cameron Brown and Tanner Reed. We came home tired, but a good tired. We can't wait for next year when we can once again see all our Christian friends, study God's Word and enjoy another week at VCC.

Your Servant In Christ,

Trae Bailey

Youth Intern Summer 2008



I still need any events going on during the months of July and August. You've gotten an extra week!! Get them to me by Wednesday!!

- Jo Ann

F Y I For Your Information

ADULT FELLOWSHIP CLASS

You are invited to the "Lessons from Camp" class on Sunday. The lesson will be by Lyn Shrader this morning.

PRIMARY CLASS TEACHERS

There will be a short meeting today at 5:30 to discuss paint colors for your classrooms. Painting will be done during the week of July 13-20. All teachers must attend; bring your color chips to the meeting and be prompt!!

FALL PRIMARY TEACHERS

All lesson plans, activities and etc. from last fall need to be e-mailed to Tom Richardson or Danny Guard by August 31. Give all visuals to Tom.

IN-HOUSE SUMMER SERIES

Be here this Wednesday night to hear Jerry Anderson as our special guest speaker!

Here's a list of other speakers for this summer: Richards Simms, Luke Guard, Wayne Dixon, Fred Altizer, Steve Hall, Jim Cooke, Tom Richardson, Eric Earnhart, Don Pettit, Jeff Durham and Mark Brooks. Make your plans now to be here to encourage these men!

WEDDING RECEPTION

There will be a wedding reception for Brett & Ashley Jones on July 12 from 2-4 at West Side Fellowship Hall.

DUFF'S NEW ADDRESS

3927 Yokefellow Circle Apt. 104, Memphis, TN 38125
Toms' e-mail—tduff123@msn.com
Susan's e-mail—rudy713@msn.com
Preston's e-mail—prestonspad@msn.com

Teams?!?!? Team leaders please let me know if you have any events planned!!



Teens

June & July dates

June 29—Young Men conduct services
July 1—TNT Bible Study—Teen Center 7-9
July 3—Guys Night—Teen Center 7-9

Summer Youth Devos

July 7—Christiansburg
July 21—Dale Ridge
August 4—Radford
August 9—Lake Drive (12-2)

All Devos are at 7-8:30 unless noted otherwise.

Thank you to all the youth who attended the TNT Kick-off Cookout! The food and fellowship was a great way to start off a fun filled summer.

WOW

The WOW GROUP will meet on TUESDAY, July 8 at 10:30 AM.

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



July 2008

Without Christ

Announcements	Roger Mays
Song Leader (AM)	Eric Earnhart
Opening Prayer (AM)	
7/6	Danny Guard
7/13	Wayne Dixon
7/20	Squeaky Valentine
7/27	Tom Rogers
Preside at Communion	Charlie Gwaltney
Serve Table	Herb Baker Garrett Durham Luke Guard Fred Altizer
Closing Prayer	
7/6	Mark Brooks
7/13	Gene Benefield
7/20	Caleb Guard
7/27	AC Janney
Song Leader (PM)	Paul Mays
Opening Prayer (PM)	
7/6	Jim Harrington
7/13	Josh Whitlow
7/20	Jeremy White
7/27	John Black Bradford Durham
Scripture Reader	
Closing Prayer (PM)	
7/6	Sam Valentine
7/13	Glenn Hartman
7/20	Greg Edwards
7/27	Ethan Rogers
Serve Table (PM)	Tanner Reed Cameron Brown
Song Leader (Wed)	Bob Garby
Prayer (Wed)	
7/2	Adam House
7/9	Tom Richardson
7/16	Jeff Durham
7/23	Jerry Anderson
7/30	Jim Bush
Open/Close Bldg	Danny Guard
Greeters	Gwaltney Gabbard
Nursery Attend	S. Mountcastle N. Munsey
Ushers	Glenn Hartman Squeaky Valentine
Handouts	Adam House George Mellon Curtis Oakes Sam Valentine
Alternates	Lyn Shrader
Prepare communion	Charlene Guard Velda Gearhart
Cards & Pencils	Chandler & Conner Jearls

Last weeks attendance 6/15& 18/08

Bible Class—139 Worship Service—177
Sunday Eve.—132 Wednesday Eve.—170
Contribution—\$4680

Paul reminded the Ephesians of where they had been in former times: “Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh

made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world” (Eph. 2:11, 12). Being “without Christ” is accompanied by dire consequences. Among other things it means there is no hope. Paul likewise told the Corinthians that they had no hope without Christ. “And if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable” (I Cor. 15:17-19).

The great gospel preacher George Bailey recently made an astute observation about Philippians 1:21. The passage states, “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.” Brother Bailey said, “Without ‘Christ’ there is no ‘gain’. And, if you leave out the connective ‘and,’ the passage then simply reads, ‘For to me to live is to die.’” Indeed, in taking Christ out of the equation any gain is also removed. It vanquishes all hope and makes faith futile.

Many live every day without Christ and, therefore, live every day without any hope. If our lives are lived without Christ they are void of what gives true meaning to life because they are lived in the shadows of time and not eternity. If you are living your life without Christ in it, Philippians 1:21 reads for you, “For to me to live is to die,” because there is no gain in it. This and like passages read completely different without Christ in them. And, so do our lives. Is Christ in yours?

-Eddy

Number 2926
June 29, 2008