

"The Link"

BETWEEN YOUR CHURCH... AND HOME!



A CHURCH FAMILY DISCOVERING
"NEW BEGINNINGS"



Volume XXIV

July 2016

Issue 7

More Harm than Good, 1 Cor. 11:17

In the movie "What about Bob", which was filmed in the Bedford/Moneta area, Bill Murray's character Bob is a man struggling with numerous mental and emotional problems that leave him quite dysfunctional in daily life. His psychiatrist refers him to Dr. Leo Marvin, played by Richard Dreyfus, who seems to hold the key to a breakthrough.

However, the doctor is about to leave on an extended vacation with his family, and Bob suddenly finds himself once again panicked by the prospect of going some weeks without therapy. Through a course of sneaky moves Bob discovers where the doctor and his family are vacationing and, though quite uninvited, shows up hoping to have his needs met with no thought to the needs of the doctor and his family. As Bob steps off the bus in the middle of town he begins to call out for Dr. Marvin who hears him from a nearby store. He rushes over to quiet the embarrassing situation, and Bob begins to plead with Dr. Marvin for help. As he stands there begging he cries over and over, "Gimme, gimme, gimme, I need, I need, I need." He is consumed by his own need with absolutely no thought to Dr. Marvin's need for time away from the office to be with his family.

I can't help but think of this scene in the movie when I hear of Christians who flit from one church to another looking for their needs to be met. One will say he's not being fed, so it's time to move on to a church with just the right pastor and teachers who will fill him spiritually on Sundays. Another family looks for the most active youth group, because they want their teenagers to be equipped in the things of the Lord and enjoy lots of fun filled activities. Others will look for the perfect music program where their souls are lifted by the exciting worship music and poise of the song leaders and performers. There are still other folks who will leave one church in search of another where the pastor will visit them, smile a lot, and meet their personal needs without offending them or hurting their feelings.

To those who may not be "temple hoppers" I see the selfishness lived out through attitudes and actions that say, "I have a right to my space, my pleasures, and my priorities". Because they prefer a certain room to meet in, or a particular type of music or preaching style, they are offended when others do not give them what they want. Many are offended not by what another does or says but by what we perceive to have been done or said.

The church in America has descended into a place of ignorance when it comes to worship and ministry. Never did Christ instruct us to settle comfortably into padded pews an hour or two a week to be coddled and ministered to by people paid and trained to be our need providers. We have shamefully become a people who cry "Gimme, gimme, gimme, I need, I need, I need," and when we don't receive the right flavor pacifier we think we need, we move on in search of another provider. It has escaped the consciousness of most believers today that Jesus Christ said, "*he that will be first must be last*", (Mat. 20:27). As our example He said that He "*had not come to be served but to serve*", (Mat. 20:28). In another place Jesus taught us the spiritual principle that "*it is better to give than receive*", (Acts 20:35), and in Philippians God orders us to "*esteem others as better than ourselves*", (Phil. 2:3). Never in the New Testament account of the healthy early church do we see examples of lazy believers growing fat and happy as they become part of the body of Christ. Think about it—if someone in the body of Christ is not a useful arm, leg, eye, or ear, then he is most likely a painful tumor or parasite robbing the body of its strength and health.

Our purpose in the body is to minister in accordance with how the Spirit has equipped us, to the glory of God and building up of the entire body (the church). If what I am doing (or not doing) is not building up the rest of the body and honoring God, then I have missed my purpose entirely. I must not be so concerned with my own comforts and needs that I forget that "*greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends*", (John 15:13). In 1 Corinthians, chapter 11, Paul says to the church, "*I have no praise for you, for your meetings do more harm than good*", (1 Cor. 11:17). There were such disagreements and arguing among the believers that they were divided. Each was looking out for his own interests, and even during the celebration of the Lord's supper, which by the way was a true sit-down feast, they dishonored the Lord by their overeating, drunkenness, and inconsiderate failure to wait for everyone to arrive in order to share the meal together. How disgraceful that when some brothers and sisters arrived, all that remained to greet them at this supposed holy occasion were empty dishes and the abundant rudeness of drunken gluttons. Not a pretty picture!

Rather than temple hopping in hopes of stumbling into the perfect church we need to flourish where God has planted us in order to be a blessing and servant to the others. It is crucial that we remember that our spiritual growth is not the responsibility of someone else. I must personally cultivate those disciplines of Bible study, prayer, and service in order to grow into Christ-like maturity. Likewise, the ultimate spiritual well-being of my wife and children should not be dependent upon those outside my family, though I am appreciative of worthy teaching and godly doctrine that will supplement what first takes place in our home. Children will always learn more by the example they observe being lived out around them than by words and programs that fill a few structured hours at the church building. And just because there may be a large children's or youth program is no guarantee that it is accomplishing much spiritual good. It is not uncommon today to discover that those within the church are indistinguishable from those without. They dress the same, talk the same, visit the same places, and sadly often share the same filthy mud pits as their immoral and godless friends at school or work. If purity and holiness are missing at home or in one's personal life, it only means there is a good chance that a larger gathering of these same folks will but reflect the low level of spirituality of the many individuals. One dirty thread wrapped together with many dirty threads only makes for one dirty rope.

Instead of fleeing one location for another, why not pray to God about the local need, and then say, "*Here am I Lord, send me*", (Isa. 6:8) (not away from your present location but into the joy of service)? Why not look at the great need in your present situation, and then be the one who steps up to meet that need by the power of Christ? If children and youth workers are needed, volunteer to serve. If teaching is weak or uninspiring why not pray about your part in making it more interesting and meaningful? If the music program suffers, become part of the solution by being faithful to improve it. If the pastor doesn't quite float your boat, begin to pray for his needs and those of his family, bless him, offer to assist him, and above all, pray about what you are looking for to float your boat in the first place. It just might be that you've been wanting to float in the wrong stuff! The perfect local church does not exist on earth. If enough of us will mature in the faith and put our developed spiritual gifts to work, the fruit of the Spirit will become evident in the body, God will be exalted, and the unchurched and visitors we bring to our temples will look to us and know that we are Christians by the love we have one for another. Let's stop complaining with "Gimme, gimme, gimme, I need, I need, I need" and offer ourselves up as living sacrifices saying "How can I serve you"? With this attitude it is certain our meetings will do more good than harm.



July 2016

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| 3 12:15 Property/ Baptist men 6:30 Bible Study | 4 Happy Fourth!! | 5 7 pm Deacons Meeting | 6 6:45 pm Youth 7 pm Business Meeting | 7 11 am 3 score and more | 8 | 9 |
| 10 6:30 pm Bible Study | 11 | 12 | 13 6:45 pm Youth 7 pm Bible Study | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| 17 6:30 pm Bible Study | 18 | 19 | 20 6:45 pm Youth 7 pm Bible Study | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 6:30 pm Bible Study | 25 VBS | 26 VBS | 27 VBS | 28 VBS | 29 VBS | 30 |
| 31 6:30 pm Bible Study | | | | | | |

Quotes and Scriptures for the 4th of July

"Do not let anyone claim tribute of American patriotism if they even attempt to remove religion from politics."

– George Washington's Farewell Address to Nation

"Sure I wave the American flag. Do you know a better flag to wave? Sure I love my country with all her faults. I'm not ashamed of that, never have been, never will be."

– John Wayne

"America was established not to create wealth but to realize a vision, to realize an ideal – to discover and maintain liberty among men."

– Woodrow Wilson



General Omar Bradley said, "America today is running on the momentum of a godly ancestry, and when that momentum runs down, God help America."

Bradley also said, "We have grasped the mystery of the atom and rejected the Sermon on the Mount... The world has achieved brilliance without conscience. Ours is a world of nuclear giants and ethical infants."

"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded not but religionists but by Christians, not on religion but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

– Patrick Henry

"We have been assured, Sir, in the Sacred Writings, that 'except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it.' I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without his concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the Builders of Babel."

– Benjamin Franklin (From the debates at the Constitutional Convention, June of 1787)

2 Chronicles 7:14 – if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

Proverbs 14:34 – Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.

"We have no government armed with power capable of contending with human passions unbridled by morality and religion. Our constitution was made for a moral and religious people... it is wholly inadequate to the government of any other..."

– John Quincy Adams

Only in America

1. Only in America can a pizza get to your house faster than an ambulance.
2. Only in America are there handicap parking places in front of a skating rink.
3. Only in America do drugstores make the sick walk all the way to the back of the store to get their prescriptions, while healthy people can buy cigarettes at the front.
4. Only in America do people order double cheeseburgers, large fries and a DIET coke.
5. Only in America do we leave cars worth thousands of dollars in the driveway and put our junk in the garage. Hello.
6. Only in America do we use answering machines to screen calls and have call-waiting so we won't miss a call from someone we didn't want to talk to in the first place.
7. Only in America do we buy hot dogs in packages of ten and buns in packages of eight.

The Inscription on the Statue of Liberty, written by Emma Lazarus

Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning to breathe free,
The wretched refuse of your teeming shore,
Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed, to me;
I lift my lamp beside the golden door.

No King But Jesus!

The Colonists grew in their resilience and confidence in God, to the point where one Crown-appointed Governor wrote of the condition to the Board of Trade back in England: "If you ask an American who is his master? He will tell you he has none, nor any governor but Jesus Christ."

The Committees of Correspondence soon began sounding the cry across the Colonies: "No King but King Jesus!"

"It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible."

– George Washington

Bible Wordsearch

Jesus Heals

Wordsearch 250

Matt.9:22-34

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| | |
|----------|--------|
| AMAZED | AFTER |
| ASKED | AWAY |
| ASLEEP | DAVID |
| BELIEVE | DONE |
| CALLING | EYES |
| CROWD | FAITH |
| DEMONS | FLUTE |
| DRIVEN | GIRL |
| ENTERED | HOUSE |
| INDOORS | ISRAEL |
| LAUGHED | JESUS |
| NOTHING | KNOWS |
| OUTSIDE | LORD |
| PLAYERS | MUTE |
| PRINCE | MERCY |
| REGION | NEWS |
| RESTORED | NOISY |
| RULERS | OVER |
| SPREAD | SEEN |
| STERNLY | SIGHT |
| TOUCHED | SPOKE |
| WARNED | |

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

MORE PUZZLES AT: <http://biblewordgames.com> COPYRIGHT 2016 ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

Three Score and More

Three Score and More met on June 9th for a pot luck lunch and fellowship. Though the group was small in number, we were not lacking in enthusiasm. Following lunch, everyone got their toes tapping and enjoyed a concert featuring Cary Lynn Rutledge accompanied by Ricky Foutz on the Cajon. They entertained us with familiar classics as well as some new additions. It didn't take much encouragement to sing along to the John Denver oldies. Cary says Shady Grove feels like home to him and we are always delighted to have him join us. A hamburger/hot dog cook out is planned on July 7th, so please come prepared to join in the fun and bring your favorite picnic side-dish. More details to come.



Birthdays

- July 3rd- Collins Leftwich
- July 5th- Delmar Hill
- July 20th- Tom Evans
- July 24th- Mary Whorley
- July 29th- Hailey Jayne

? Bible Quiz?

Many people travel for leisure during the summer. In Bible days, travel was most often done out of necessity. Scripture records many notable journeys. Match the people in the left hand column with their correct travels in the right hand column.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Abraham and Sarah B. Mary, Jesus' mother C. Joseph, Mary and Jesus D. Apostle Paul | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Traveled to visit cousin Elizabeth 2. Traveled from Haran to the land of Canaan 3. Took missionary journeys, to Turkey, Macedonia and more 4. Traveled to Egypt to flee from King Herod |
|--|---|

Answer above the calendar



Church Members

- Debbie Board
- James Board
- Edith Bowyer
- Lucille Caniff
- Grover Carter
- Shirley Carter
- Myrtle Ellis
- Jim Ferrando
- Kenneth Gray
- Delmar Hill
- Linda Hill
- Jesse Jayne
- Collins Leftwich
- Agnes McPherson
- Jack & Edna Powers
- Paige Roberts
- Irene Saunders
- Audrey Thompson
- Jack Wheeler
- Jimmy & Jerri Wheeler
- Ken & Arlene Wheeler
- Sherman Wheeler

A note from the secretary:

If your birthday isn't listed, please let me know, if it doesn't show up, I don't have it, and if you have anything that you would like to announce in the newsletter please let me know, thanks!!

If you want to receive broadcast messages by phone, please let me know.

Also, address changes, phone numbers and emails, and if I have your email the newsletter can be sent that way!



"They must have had some form of email. The Apostle Paul wrote the epistles."

