



“The Link”

BETWEEN YOUR CHURCH... AND HOME!



A CHURCH FAMILY DISCOVERING
“NEW BEGINNINGS”

Volume XXIII

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Issue 8

Spiritual Pygmies

As you read this article, most certainly sitting in a climate controlled environment enjoying all of the conveniences afforded you in this wealthy, and most often materialistic culture, I invite you to think deeply on what follows.

Somewhere in this world of seven billion souls, during these very moments, a follower of Jesus Christ is being physically brutalized by a group of people who want no part of our Lord or His teaching. Many of these believers will die at the hands of their attackers.

For the past hour or more a lone bare-foot messenger has been walking hardened dirt trails deep into secluded mountains in order to share God's indescribable love with a village or community that has never heard the whole story. Some of the villagers, in fact, have been anxiously awaiting the arrival of this distant traveler, because they had only heard enough of the story to keep them sitting on the edges of their seats.

In yet another part of the world, a missionary sits at the breakfast table with his wife and three children. The electricity is off again, and they've not had a working phone for weeks. The water in the gravity-fed rooftop tank is getting low. They spend time praying for one another and the many tasks that lie ahead, and they take strength in the fact that there is no doubt that they are held in the center of God's hand obediently experiencing His perfect will.

At this same instant, beneath the old and majestic arms of a ceibo tree, a group of about 250 gather to hear a pastor teach from the book of John. It is mid-afternoon, and just outside the protective shield of leaves the sun is beating down at an incredible 108 degrees. This church has been meeting outdoors for about two years, and during the rainy season they have to rethink arrangements so they make it through the brief summer downpours. They are praying for the day when they will have an adobe structure with a tin roof that will give a bit more permanence to the meeting schedule. The downpours will still challenge them, but now only because of the deafening rain beating on the tin.

On a remote arid hillside an angry mob led by their local religious leaders has just finished bringing a small church building to the ground with their heavy clubs and rocks. They had warned the evangelicals before to stop preaching Jesus and to leave the area "or else". Just steps away the pastor and one of his leaders lie in a pool of their own blood. They will never again meet with their congregation, because they've now joined the swelling ranks of modern day Christian martyrs who have died for the privilege to name Jesus Christ Lord and Savior.

Elsewhere a brother has just crawled into his hammock following an extremely long and physically draining day. Through the aches and tiredness he gives thanks to God for his safety as he was able to testify to the power of Christ. In the heat of the night, under the veil of his mosquito net, he will drift off to sleep in anticipation of tomorrow's new adventure.

And while all of this happens around the world, as we breathe gently and take ease in our abundance, a quick inventory of our situation reveals that for the most part we are producing another generation of spiritual pygmies in the United States of America. Now if we were supposed to be of small spiritual stature, this would be no problem, but God's purpose for us is that we grow to be mighty men and women of God, even giants of faith.

Cont'd next page

With massive monuments to our religious pursuits and billions upon billions of dollars invested in external decorations and creature comforts that cater to our personal desires, we must admit that we have it extremely easy. We'll not wonder about where to gather with the brethren this next week, nor lose a moment's rest worrying about or facing persecution of biblical proportions.

Our greatest struggles will likely come when we are offended by brother so-and-so who criticized the way we set the thermostat or failed to return all of the stainless steel kitchenware to its proper place. Instead of dealing with climate, impassable roads, flooding rivers, extreme poverty, and bandits waiting to attack, too many of us will come up with newer and better reasons to rationalize our failure to share Jesus in our beautifully landscaped communities among a people group just as spiritually lost as the tribe or clan 8,000 miles from here.

In contrast to a people who sit on logs and spend hours in the dust and heat for the blessed privilege to worship God, fellowship with the brethren, and learn new and exciting truths from God's Word, we will draw angry battle lines in the sand, invent lies about other Christians, and rarely read (much less study) the Bible to see what God is saying in a personal and intimate way. As long as we can look busy and stay moderately active inside our buildings it matters very little what we do or say on the outside.

This will fuel our descent into lower mediocrity and spiritual immaturity, and our children, grandchildren, and many acquaintances will repeat even more frequently that well-known refrain, "I don't need church, because I'm just as good as they are." Shamefully it's not their goodness being called into question but rather our badness. They don't need church, because we are as bad as they are.

This is not rocket science. Many people do not recognize our Christian faith or seek out Jesus for the simple reason that we do not love as we should. Jesus said clearly in John 13, "*This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.*" If the lost are not coming to Christ we must accept the responsibility in great part, because we do not love one another. Who wants to be part of a body that fails to patiently love the very members of the church or is just as dysfunctional and ill-behaved as the family or group of which they are already a part?

2 Timothy 2 instructs the diligent believer, "*And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.*" This is an oft-quoted verse designed to encourage and motivate us to the great task of teaching godly principles and truth. Unfortunately, the concept may be applied in a destructive way. We are raising countless numbers of spiritual pygmies in our congregations, because the negative and harmful things we see and hear are being passed on to other less faithful members, "*who shall be able to teach others also.*" Instead of a beautiful design always being applied for holy purposes, there are far too many in our churches teaching and learning wrong attitudes and behavior. This ugly cycle is repeated from one generation to another resulting in spiritually impoverished churches with more and more of our children electing to no longer associate with church. In this sense we are losing the battle on two fronts, decay within and disinterest without.

God is our only sure hope. Until we strike out on a disciplined journey with the Lord, moving beyond the pabulum, soft lazy chairs, and selfish comforts our affluence brings, we will not know personally what it means to "*attain to the unity of faith and knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the extent of the full stature of Christ, so that we may no longer be infants, tossed by waves and swept along by every wind of teaching arising from human trickery, from their cunning in the interests of deceitful scheming. Rather, living the truth in love, we should grow in every way into him who is the head, Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, with the proper functioning of each part, brings about the body's growth and builds itself up in love.*" (Ephesians 4:13-16)

Lord of Heaven and Earth, impress us heavily with the imperative to "*grow in every way.*" -Steve Manuel

August 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 12:15 Property/ Baptist Men 12:15 WMU	3 7 pm Finance Com	4 7 pm Deacon's meeting	5 7pm Business Meeting	6 11am Three Score and More 7 pm Pastor Search Com	7	8
9	10	11	12 7 pm Bible Study	13 7 pm Pastor Search Com	14	15 Church Picnic, 5pm at the pavilion
16	17	18 Candidate Andy Dooley, 7 pm, community meeting	19 7 pm Bible Study	20 7 pm Pastor Search Com	21	22
23	24	25	26 7 pm Bible Study	27 7 pm Pastor Search Com	28	29
30	31					

Bible Wordsearch

Wordsearch 239

Matt. 5:20-30

Beatitudes 3

J	U	D	G	E	R	E	B	M	E	M	E	R	E	T
M	R	Y	S	H	A	G	A	I	N	S	T	B	L	R
K	E	I	U	T	T	S	E	S	U	A	C	O	T	A
N	T	G	B	U	L	A	R	E	O	Y	N	D	T	E
W	N	P	J	R	A	A	T	E	V	F	R	Y	E	H
O	E	E	E	T	C	T	T	E	T	A	F	G	S	H
M	R	N	C	A	H	H	W	Y	A	T	E	E	N	E
A	E	N	T	G	R	H	L	K	T	C	A	L	R	A
N	C	Y	I	O	O	K	I	N	T	I	H	M	D	V
M	I	R	W	L	C	N	O	B	E	A	M	E	Y	E
G	F	N	E	I	G	S	G	D	E	L	K	M	R	N
O	F	R	U	D	I	C	O	U	R	T	P	I	O	S
U	O	Q	O	R	E	G	N	A	D	A	T	O	N	C
G	O	M	P	N	A	N	Y	O	N	E	E	E	E	G
E	D	B	R	O	T	H	E	R	D	N	A	H	R	P

AGAINST	ALTAR
ANYONE	ANGRY
BETTER	BODY
BROTHER	COURT
CAUSES	ENTER
COMMIT	FRONT
DANGER	HAND
GOUGE	HEARD
HEAVEN	HEART
KINGDOM	JUDGE
MATTERS	LEAVE
OFFICER	OFFER
PRISON	PENNY
QUICKLY	PEOPLE
REMEMBER	RACA
SUBJECT	RIGHT
TAKING	SETTLE
TEACHERS	TRUTH
THROWN	WHOLE

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

WOMAN

MORE PUZZLES AT:

<http://biblewordgames.com>

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Three Score and More

We loaded up on the bus and left the church at 9:00 am sharp on Thursday, July 9th for our trip to Harrisonburg, VA. We had a good crowd – ‘cause we were eating again – ha. We headed straight for Wood Grill Buffet and had plenty of really good food.

We were especially pleased that Pastor Steve and Barbara stopped by to eat with us. They were on their way to Baltimore.

After eating, the next priority is to shop. So we headed for an antique mall down I-81 at Exit 243 where we spent an hour or so. Then it was on down to Exit 227 to another mall to shop some more!!

Then we loaded up on the bus for the trip home. It was a lot of fun and everyone seemed to have a great time.

Three Score and More meets the first Thursday of each month, so if you have celebrated 60+ birthdays come on out and join us !! You will have fun and count it a blessing.

But Whom Do You Say That I AM?

E T A C O V D A E W H
 R U R E T S A M F O G
 A V R S U S E J L N O
 W R E T M W A Y I C L
 V I N Y D A A K D D O
 R A T S G N I N R O M
 D A Y S T A R C P T S A L D N A T S R I F O R E R U N N E R
 E V G F N O P H H O T U J G R O L E S N U O C H C N A R B O
 N M P E I A G O N O F U O R H A D U J F O N O I L I F E I T
 E E M V M I M O S R S F K H O R N O F S A L V A T I O N S A
 R S A A H O F F E T K E E N D O G Y T H G I M L A M E N H I
 A S S Q N G D D O I L A N I N O S N E T T O G E B Y L N O D
 Z I T J O U N N N N D E C A E P F O E C N I R P H Y P L P E
 A A E D Y O E G A C O R S T N E N I V D I V A D F O N O S M
 N H R Z W H S L Q A R S D P O C J T L A M B O F G O D B V F
 R H O R A T O U C I R
 P H P O C S N D E G E
 E L R L D R S G R H D
 N D O F A E O E R T E
 T R P O I N L V U H E
 E E H D D R A E S B M
 R V E R E O T R E S E
 E O T O L C I L R H R
 V S N L I K O A V E T
 I S G R V V N S A P S
 G A D A E R B T N H I
 W P S D R V S I T E R
 A G S G E V O N O R H
 L O W O R D H G S D C
 N O I T A D N U O F Y

Advocate
 Almighty
 Alpha and Omega
 Amen
 Apostle
 Beloved Son
 Bishop
 Branch
 Bread
 Captain
 Carpenter
 Chosen
 Christ
 Consolation
 Cornerstone
 Counselor
 Day Star
 Deliverer

Door
 Emmanuel
 Everlasting
 Faithful and True
 First and Last
 Forerunner
 Foundation
 Governor
 Head
 High Priest
 Holy and Just One
 Horn of Salvation
 I AM
 Jesus
 Judge
 King
 King of Kings
 Lamb of God

Lawgiver
 Life
 Light
 Lion of Judah
 Lord
 Lord of Lords
 Master
 Master
 Mediator
 Messiah
 Mighty God
 Morning Star
 Nazarene
 Only Begotten Son
 Passover
 Priest
 Prince of Peace
 Prophet

Redeemer
 Resurrection
 Rock
 Savior
 Servant
 Shepherd
 Son of David
 Son of God
 Son of Man
 Vine
 Way
 Wonderful
 Word

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District 6 Candidate, Andy Dooley will be holding a Community Meeting at church on August 18th at 7pm, for anyone that wishes to come and hear him speak, ask questions or join in a discussion.



August 2nd- Norma Evans

August 17th- John Ferron

August 14th- Steve Primo

August 25th- Jim Hartberger

August 28th- Dorothy Harmon

August 30th- Irene Spangler

Birthdays

We have two people in care centers that have a birthday in August, please take time to send them a card.

Jim Hartberger 931 Ashland Ave, Special Care, Bedford, VA 24523
Dorothy Harmon, 1203 Roundtree Drive, Room B-30 Bedford, VA

? Bible Quiz?

Careful readers of Mark's gospel will discover that the writer favored a certain word. It indicates how quickly certain events transpired. The word is found four times in the first chapter of Mark and 19 more times in the remaining 15 chapters.

Choose the correct word.

- A. Momentarily
- B. Instantly
- C. Occasionally
- D. Immediately

Answer above the calendar



- Church Members**
- James Board
 - Jim Brown
 - Lucille Caniff
 - Myrtle Ellis
 - Linda & Jim Ferrando
 - Kenneth Gray
 - Paulette Gray
 - Delmar & Linda Hill
 - Collins Leftwich
 - Reva Meade
 - Agnes McPherson
 - Jack & Edna Powers
 - Jack Wheeler
 - Jimmy & Jerri Wheeler
 - Ken & Arlene Wheeler
 - Sherman Wheeler



The WMU is extending an invitation to all woman of the church, to come and join us in our meetings, activities, projects and please bring your ideas. We would like to hear your ideas and suggestions and have the opportunity of working with all the woman of the church.



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!!

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



Thank You
Thank You
Thank You!!!!

It couldn't have happened without you!!