

NEWS

Charles Kyle had his Cat-Scan last Monday and he was to see his doctor on Friday to receive the results of the scan. The concern is his high white blood cell count. Continue to remember him in your prayers——**Dorothy Kyle** was not feeling well last Sunday and was not able to be in the services——**Beverly Amerson** saw her doctor last Monday, her neck brace was removed, and X-Ray was made of her neck and she received a good report——**Ken Ferguson** had too close communication with poison oak or poison ivy and he is suffering (continued on page 3)

ELDERS:

Bob Arnold 572-1219
Leon Goff 572-6809
Kendall Johnson 572-9306

DEACONS:

Ron Burns 577-9978
Ricky Davis 572-9428
Ken Ferguson 572-4135
Pat Marshall 572-9347

SERVICES:

Sunday

Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Class 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

PREACHERS:

Ronald Stringer 717-8603
Leon Goff 572-6809

ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

August 25, 2013

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture: Kendall Johnson
Ken Ferguson Pat Marshall
Ricky Davis Richard Tapparo

Sunday Evening

Ken Ferguson Pat Marshall

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—Bob Arnold (Opening)
—Austin Fulmer (Closing)
PM—Willie Don Davis (Opening)
—Charles Davis (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—Kendall Johnson
P.M.—Paul Chapman

(call Pat Marshall if unable to serve)

Think It Over—If you were to die today...Where would you spend eternity? To all who love God, and to those who do not, but should, to all who are weary and heavy laden; to all who are lonely and sad; to all who sin and need a Savior, and to whosoever will come a hearty welcome is extended.

Southside
Church of Christ
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Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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Giving and God

By David Holder

CHRISTIANS' GIVING MAY BE CONSIDERED TEMPORAL, earth-bound, and ordinary. People work, earn, and give; the church receives and spends. But carefully reading the apostle Paul about giving takes the matter to another level.

Giving is an expression of God's grace—2 Cor. 8:1-6. Paul wrote to Corinth to stimulate and guide their giving. They had started participating in Paul's collection for the poor saints in Jerusalem, but over time their interest and involvement waned. Paul uses the Macedonians' example to motivate the Corinthians, but he doesn't start with them. Instead, he starts with Him—with God, with "the grace of God which has been given to the churches of Macedonia." Behind the Macedonians' generosity was God's generosity. His giving enabled their giving.

Paul mentions three factors relating to the Macedonians' generosity—their severe affliction, their abundant joy, and their deep poverty. They were not living comfortably nor enjoying prosperity; but they were giving generously. They even pleaded for the privilege to give. How do people come to this place and point? The answer has to do with their values. They were not bent on comfort; they did not yield to the lure of personal satisfaction. No, "they gave themselves to the Lord." They lived in full view of His giving to them and in turn they gave to Him.

Focus and perspective are the key components to generous giving. If

we become focused on what we want, on our comfort, on our personal satisfaction, we may give dutifully but it won't be generously. Recognizing God's grace both to save and support shapes our living and our giving. We must never forget that we give only because God has so graciously given.

Giving is a gift of the Spirit—2 Cor. 8:7. Paul calls Christians' giving a "gracious work." We know from 1 Corinthians that the Christians had and exercised *charismata*—gifts of grace administered by the Spirit (1 Cor. 14:11). Paul notes in 2 Corinthians that the Christians abound in faith, speech, knowledge, earnestness, and love, and he puts the "grace of giving" in this category. Note carefully that all spiritual gifts are not supernatural. In the early days of Christianity, supernatural spiritual gifts were given to confirm the divine origin of what was being taught and done (see Heb. 2:3-4). But Paul makes it clear here, as in Rom. 12, that gifts may be spiritual and not miraculous; they may have spiritual motivation, context, and purpose. In Rom. 12:7-8, Paul mentions "gifts that differ according to the grace given" —serving, teaching, exhorting, giving, leading, and showing mercy.

In 2 Cor. 8:7, Paul urges believers to "abound in this gracious work"—giving is an opportunity we all have to sacrifice, share, love, and serve. Some may have the "gift of giving"—the capacity to give more than others; and those with significant financial resources have a special re-

sponsibility to be good stewards of their resources. But all believers to some extent can share in the gracious work of giving.

Giving is inspired by the cross of Christ—2 Cor. 8:8-9. Paul did not relegate giving to a command specifying an amount or a percentage. Think about it—no one can really command generous, cheerful giving. It can be inspired and encouraged, but not commanded. Paul wants giving to be the outgrowth of love and this, almost inevitably for Paul, brings up the subject of the cross.

Paul wrote, "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ..." and then describes grace in terms of poverty and wealth. But it is not material poverty and wealth that Paul has in mind. Jesus was "rich"—He was the Son of God in heaven, enjoying unbroken fellowship with the Father and the Spirit. But He became "poor"—He became a man, a servant, and a sacrifice that took Him finally to the cross. Jesus took on this "poverty" so that others "might become rich"—that they might be rescued from sin and right with God. Paul ends his discussion of giving with thanksgiving, no doubt with at least the cross of Christ in mind—"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift."

In the opening paragraphs of Paul's most extensive discussion of giving, he gets before us important perspectives. Giving to the Lord is far more than a

financial transaction. It is an expression of God's grace, the exercise of the Spirit's gift, and gratitude for Jesus' cross. All this enriches our lives and faith, and motivates generous and cheerful giving.

—*Focus Magazine*, Oct.-Nov. 12

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Preachers Today & Next Sunday

Clark Dugger will preaching for us morning and evening today. Clark lives in the Tyler area and worships with the Hubbard St. church in Lindale. His wife, Debbie, plans to be with him. Let's give them a warm welcome!

Todd Banning and his wife, Laura, will be with us next Sunday, August 25. Todd is one of the preachers with the Campbell Rd. church in Garland, working along with Rickie Jenkins and Jacob Hudgins.

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Gospel Meeting!

Reagan McClenny is the speaker in a meeting at the **Belt Road church in Texarkana, this week, Sunday through Wednesday**, services at **7:00 weeknights**.

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The Stringer

Ronald, his father and mother, Johnny and Nannette, left town a little after 7:00 Wednesday morning moving Ronald to Rogersville, AL, to live with his parents for the time being. I know that

they expressed their appreciation for the good help several of you gave in packing and loading the truck, cleaning the house, and everything that was done. I, personally really appreciate the hard work and the attitude you all showed toward Ronald and his folks. Also, thanks for the good turnout for Ronald's "going away get-together" a week ago yesterday. I counted 61 who were present. I am thankful for you. And we will look forward to Ronald and his folks being with us again in April.

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NEWS (continued from back page)
the results. He was not in our service Sunday evening—**Deborah Brown** continues to recover from her recent surgery and seems to be doing well—**Kent Arnold**, brother of Bob, had a stroke a week ago Friday and is in Baylor Hospital in Dallas. He is not doing very well at this writing—**Gene White**, former member of the church here, has recently been diagnosed with melanoma cancer and he is being sent to M.D. Anderson in Houston for treatment—**Peggy Splann Young**, former member of the church here, who has been treated for cancer in recent years, has had her cancer return. She is in the hospital at Nacogdoches—Remember **Relda Marshall, Michele Williams, Maurine Lee, Pat Brown, Dorothy Kyle, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford, Shirley Ferguson and Ronald Stringer**—Remember our **Shut-ins: Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Dee Ellis, Maurine Lee, Irma May, Lelda Thompson and Joan Tosh.**