

## News

**Willie Don Davis** began to show signs of a problem a week ago yesterday, was taken back to ETMC in Tyler, and more blood was removed from beside his brain. Since the removal of the blood he has been showing good progress in his physical actions and his speech. He was returned to Greenhill Villas on Thursday—**William White** had his knee replacement surgery in Tyler last Tuesday and came home Friday. His surgery was successful and he is doing well—**Kristen Arnold's aunt**, who lived in St. Joe, AR, passed away last (continued on page 3)

### ELDERS:

**Bob Arnold** 563-2977  
**Leon Goff** 572-6809  
**Kendall Johnson** 572-9306

### DEACONS:

**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:

**Jared Rogers** 682-300-3602  
**Leon Goff** 572-6809

### ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

**July 24, 2016**

#### Serving The Lord's Supper

##### Sunday Morning

Scripture: Kendall Johnson

**Kenneth Amerson** **Thomas Hockaday**  
**Jerry Don Davis** **Dylan Davis**

##### Sunday Evening

**Kenneth Amerson** **Thomas Hockaday**  
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### PRAYERS

**Sun. AM—Ricky Davis (Opening)**  
—Pat Marshall (Closing)

**PM—Richard Tapparo (Opening)**  
—Jeron McGough (Closing)

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A.M.—Ken Ferguson**  
**P.M.—Bob Arnold**  
(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  
P.O. Box 242  
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456

# Southside Church of Christ

## Bulletin

1220 E. Ferguson Rd. Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

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## Is Feeding the Poor and the Homeless an Evangelistic Model?

By *Berry Kercheville*

Recently, I was asked a question that has become somewhat common: “*Shouldn't we as a church be feeding the poor? After all, we could create opportunities to teach the gospel.*”

We Christians are compassionate people. There are simply few works that feel better than helping those in need. As individual Christians we are told to “do good to all men, especially the house of faith” (Gal. 6:10) and “visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction” (James 1:27). These are responsibilities at which Christians have often failed. But the local church, as a collective, is not in that business. Here is the problem: when providing for physical needs comes *first*, the gospel message is no longer the draw. Those whom we are serving clearly recognize our gifts as a gospel bribe. They are happy to take what we give them and may even give some attention to our words, but food is still the draw. Even on a personal level, when I have Bible studies with people who are poor, I have to be careful not to do very much for them monetarily lest they become “drawn” by the hope of money. This mistake has been made in third world countries, and it doesn't work any better in America.

If you are skeptical, look at the book of Acts. As Luke lays out to Theophilus the picture of the Lord's kingdom, is community service and meeting physical needs the model you see? There are incidents in which Peter and Paul healed for the purpose of proving their apostolic message, but Luke says nothing about churches serving the needs of the poor, which were far more critical in the Roman world than in the

United States. Instead, nineteen of Luke's twenty-eight chapters describe how disciples were "going everywhere preaching the word" to save souls. That is the model. I am certainly not suggesting that Christians remove themselves from any service to the world. But that should not be the means by which we open the door of the gospel.

### Didn't Jesus Care for the Needy?

Someone might say, "Ah, but look at the times Jesus had compassion on people in their trials and healed them. And when they were hungry, he fed them. Isn't that our model?" Again, this is a misunderstanding of Jesus' ministry. There is a common misconception that Jesus went around the countryside constantly feeding the poor. But what passage teaches that principle? First, we never see Jesus entering a town and telling the disciples to divide up the money bag and go through the city feeding the poor. In fact, after the feeding of the 5000 (who were in need in the wilderness *after* hearing him teach), he rebuked them for coming back for breakfast the next day. His reply to them was, "*Truly, truly, I say to you, you are seeking me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not labor for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures to eternal life...*" (Jn. 6:26-27).

Yes, Jesus is absolutely our model, but let's look more carefully at the model.

First, we are talking about the difference between Jesus' primary work and what he did because he is a loving, compassionate God. Jesus told us his primary mission. Speaking to Zacchaeus he said, "Today salvation has come to this house, for the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:9-10). When John the baptizer saw Jesus, he said, "Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Everything Jesus did was directed toward saving souls. Jesus healed people and fed people out of compassion, but he did so primarily to prove he was God who came to save them, not to solve this world's woes. Did Jesus heal and keep healing everyone who was sick? Was the whole world healed physically because he came? Jesus could have said a word and no one would have ever been sick again or died. Did he constantly feed the poor? Did Jesus solve poverty? Is that the picture of his mission? Yes, Jesus is our model, but solving social ills in order to open the door for the gospel was not his pattern.

In John 6:44-45 Jesus specifically stated, "*No one comes to me unless the Father draws him...and they shall all be taught by God. Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to me.*" The scripture is the "draw," not food. Jesus had fed them to show that he is "the bread of life." As his sermon in John six illustrated, if he could multiply food, he could give them the living bread. Feeding the multitudes in the wilderness

was hardly Jesus' method of drawing them to God. Instead, Jesus said, "*Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life...For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink*" (Jn. 6:54-55). Consuming Jesus is the goal so that one's love and desire is for God.

The Lord sees everything from the standpoint of his glory and man's salvation. Fixing our spiritual ills is his primary purpose, not giving us a perfect existence on this earth.

—Focus Online 7/7/16

### You Are Righteous

Thus Noah did; according to all that God commanded him, so he did. Then the Lord said to Noah, "Come into the ark, you and all your household, because I have seen that you are righteous before Me in this generation." (Genesis 6:22-7:1, NKJV)

Noah was a righteous man. This does not mean Noah never sinned. This does not mean Noah earned his way onto the ark. It means God accounted Noah righteous when he did "according to all that God commanded him" (Gen. 6:22). Noah built the ark "by faith," and by so doing he "became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith" (Heb. 11:7). Thus, Noah "found grace in the eyes of the Lord" (Gen. 6:8). Noah was saved from the flood waters "by grace, through faith." This is a perfect type of

God's salvation of sinners in Christ, the antitype of which "now saves us—baptism" (1 Pet. 3:20-21). Water baptism no more earns salvation than building the ark earned Noah's salvation from the flood. Salvation is "by grace" and it is "through faith" (Eph. 2:8). Yet, the faith that saves is the faith that obeys. Is it essential to obey God's command to be baptized in order to be saved? Yes. If you doubt it, just ask Noah.

—Joe Price, via *Southside church Bulletin*. Sulphur Springs, TX

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**NEWS** (continued from back weekend and her funeral service was Wednesday. We express our sincere sympathy to Kristen and her loved ones—**Peggy Bellamy** is still have some pain following the procedure to remove kidney stones—**Dorothy Kyle** continues in the Greenhill Villas, Room 325. She is receiving therapy for her weakness—**Randy Blackmon** is still struggling with health issues and he is not sure what is going on. He thinks he may be suffering from vertigo—Remember **Willie Don Davis, Ron Traugher, Vivian Stroman, William White, Catherine Moss, Wade Miller, David Chapman, Kris Ferguson, Jr., Relda Marshall, Dorothy and Charles Kyle, Pat Brown, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford, and Judy Hinson**—Remember our **Shut-ins: Loyd Clark, Shirley Ferguson, Maurine Lee, and Lelda Thompson.**