

NEWS

Brian Brownlee, Doyle's son, passed away week before last and his graveside service was conducted this past Wednesday at 10:00 at the Gladewater Cemetery. Our condolences are extended to Doyle, Vickie and all their loved ones—**Frank Ruiz** passed away in the early part of this past week in the McAllen area. He was never a member of Southside, but he visited our services often while living in Mt. Pleasant. We express our sympathy to Louticia and loved ones—**Terry Jordan** was back in our service last Sunday for the first time since his recent heart valve surgery. It's good to see him doing well. (continued on page 3)

ELDERS:

Bob Arnold 563-2977
Leon Goff 572-6809
Kendall Johnson 717-0265
Richard Montgomery—
936-577-4819

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 5:00 PM

Wednesday

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

PREACHERS:

Drew Nelson 254-541-3815
Leon Goff 572-6809

ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

August 2, 2020

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture:

Sunday Evening

PRAYERS

Sun. AM— (Opening)

— (Closing)

PM— (Opening)

— (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—

P.M.—

(call Pat Marshall if unable to serve)

Southside
Church of Christ
P.O. Box 242
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456

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

Bulletin

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Enduring Your Struggle

By Mark White

We have “*need of endurance*,” the Bible says (Heb. 10:36, NKJV). Our spiritual journey toward God cannot be achieved in a single step or by a solitary moment of faith. We must be on the road toward Heaven for “the long haul.” The journey is often filled with struggles, pains and setbacks. Some Christians seem to struggle with sin more than others. This, however, does not mean they are weak or unspiritual. Each one of us deals differently with resisting temptation. What is no problem for one of us may very well be almost impossible to overcome for another. If you are a Christian, you will struggle with something which threatens your soul at some point in life. For some of us, these struggles are lifelong. Those who struggle are different from those who succumb. The struggling Christian is a fighter. He may occasionally err because of momentary weakness, but he make no excuses and does not quit the fight. Perhaps this describes most Christians I’ve known. I certainly know it describes my own experiences.

Those who struggle against sin do so in hope of someday winning the battle. We keep going because we know that the battle goes to those who do not faint. “*...in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.*” (Gal. 6:9 NASB) But still, we struggle. Some struggle just to come to church assemblies and classes. Some struggle to read their Bibles. Others struggle to pray regularly, if at all. Then, there is the daily struggle with immorality, bad attitude or personal responsibilities. Because of struggles, some feel hypocritical for even trying to overcome. They see their cycle of struggle as a battle with no relief in sight. It is at this point many believe Satan’s accusations against them. Satan made accusations to God of personal weakness in Old Testament Job (1:9-12). Satan was wrong about Job.

He struggled, but he came through his struggles victoriously (Job 42:12-17). Satan is wrong about us, too.

Someone reading these words may be searching, hoping, even longing for something that can help them win their battle. Whether or not you realize it, help is available. God is willing to provide a way of escape if you are willing to look for it (1 Cor. 10:13). Like Joseph, you may have to run away from something (Gen. 39:12). Like Onesimus, you may have to face up to what you've been running from (Phlm. 10-16). Nevertheless, the Devil will not flee from you until you resist him (Jas. 4:7). With no resistance, the Devil will move into your heart and take over your life. So, you must resist him! The final round is not yet over. The crown of righteousness awaits you and God is willing to help you.

The book of Hebrews offers some real guidance and help for those who are struggling. We are no different than the people who first read these words. *"Beloved, we are confident of better things concerning you, yes things that accompany salvation, though we speak in this manner"* (Heb. 6:9, NKJV). Having just described how some might fall away from the truth, the writer assured his readers that he knew they could remain faithful. If you are struggling you need to know that someone believes in you and knows you have what it takes to win! Wouldn't this help to strengthen your resolve and make

you more determined to overcome? We cannot conquer our struggles alone, without the power and aid of God. But with Jesus on our side, this becomes another matter. The Devil may accuse us, but *"If God is for us, who can be against us?"* (Rom. 8:31). God believes we can be successful.

Hebrews 6:10 goes on to say, *"For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered for the saints, and do minister."* We should take note here that God knows us. He knows our labors. He is aware of our work in His behalf. He is not blind to our struggles. God will not forget what we do. This should encourage us when we feel God does not understand or care about our fight with temptations. He most certainly cares and takes notice of what is happening. He also knows if we are serious about sin. He knows when we confess our sins and is faithful to forgive us and cleanse us (1 Jn. 1:9). Although the Hebrews writer expressed his desire that his readers remain faithful (6:11), he also knew their actual faithfulness was up to them. The strength of your desire to be faithful will determine whether or not you win your struggle. Preachers, elders, family members and others who care about you can only do so much. The bottom line is, if you want this, you can have it. But no one can do it for you. John wrote that the water of life is there for the taking (Rev. 22:17). However, only those who desire it will obtain it.

Finally, as you look to others for example and leadership in the struggle, be cautious about who you follow. Hebrews 6:12 warns, *"Do not become sluggish, but imitate those who through faith and patience inherit the promises."* As you look around you for models of others who are overcoming struggles, be certain that you follow someone's example who is truly following the Lord (1 Cor. 11:1). Better yet, look to the Lord Himself for the example of endurance you need (Matt. 16:24).

Can you endure your struggle? Can you win the battle you are fighting? God says you can! God cares, He wants you to be saved, and He is in your corner cheering for you to cross the finish line. Don't quit. Keep fighting. One day, you will be so glad you struggled.

Paul Coffman and His Evangelism Trip to Kenya and Uganda

The elders of Southside have made a commitment to him for funds from the church, and other churches are helping him.

He is also asking for individual contributions because there are works and expenses that come up in these trips that do not classify as works of the church, but are worthy and necessary things to be done. Each of us as members of Southside are being given the opportunity to be a part of this. We don't want anyone to feel forced to give, but if you desire to have a part in this it will be appreciated. And any amount that you are comfortable with will

be appreciated. And what any of us gives will together be of much help in Paul's work of preaching the gospel and establishing congregations.

Paul's flights have now opened up for him to leave for Kenya on August 3rd. If you plan to help him, do it soon.

Wanda Sikes Passed Away

At about 3:00 last Wednesday morning Wanda died and we believe she is in a much better place. She was a long time member of the Southside church of Christ, and faithfully attended the services as long as she was able. Until her retirement she was an English teacher in the school system here in Mt. Pleasant. She was a quiet lady and highly respected by all who knew her. Visitation will be Saturday, August 1 at BatesCooperSloan at 10:00 followed by a graveside service at Forest Lawn. She is survived by her daughter, Kinnette, and a son, Bruce. We express our sincere sympathy to them and their loved ones.

NEWS (continued from back page)
—Remember **Charles Davis Rance Hockaday, Kenneth Amerson, Enoch Waldrep's brother, Kenny Ferguson, Marion Shurtleff, June Johnson, Randy Blackmon, Teresa Tate, Betty Rust, Frank White, William and Yvonne White, Willie Don Davis, Judy Hinson, Catherine Moss, Deborah Brown**—
Remember our **Shut-ins: James Johnson, Betty Rust.**