

NEWS

Relda Marshall will have her surgery to remove the tumor from her pancreas this next Thursday morning, April 5, at M.D. Anderson in Houston. Continue to pray for her and the doctors that this will be successful—**Naomi Copeland** had surgery to remove a mass from the left side of her neck last Tuesday. After a few hours the surgeon realized that there was a problem with blood clots and she was taken back into surgery Tuesday night and that was completed around midnight. She went home on Thursday and at last word was (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:
April 8, 2012**

Serving The Lord's Supper
Sunday Morning
Scripture: **Leon Goff**

Phil Brown **Ron Burns**
Kevin Kanaley **Dalva Allen**

Sunday Evening
Phil Brown **Ron Burns**

PRAYERS
Sun. AM—Bob Arnold (Opening)
—**Buford Guthrie (Closing)**
PM—Willie Don Davis (Opening)
—**Richard Tapparo (Closing)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS
A.M.—Ken Ferguson
P.M.—Ken Johnson
(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

815 S. Jefferson St. Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455
(903) 572-2148

Website: www.thesouthsidechurch.com

Volume XIX

April 1, 2012

Number 14

Reclaiming Surrendered Ground

By Jeff May

Enemy occupied territory. That's what this world is." These words penned by C.S. Lewis are on target. If you read your Bible, you can't miss seeing that we are at war in this world.

It all began in the Garden of Eden. Satan came after God's children, made an insurgence onto territory God had staked out, and moved them to give ground. Then and there God declared war! Eden was our "ground zero." God immediately set out to take back the ground Satan had taken in Adam and Eve's life. He declared the day would come when Jesus, the seed of woman, would deliver a crushing blow to the head of the devil (Gen. 3:15).

Your Person War

This war is still going on. And it goes on in your life. God wants to give you abundant life while Satan makes promises that are but a camouflage to hide his real intent to destroy your soul.

God casts one vote for you. The devil casts one vote against you. But you cast the deciding vote! Satan knows God prizes you. And because he hates God and wants to hurt Him, he knows the greatest way to hurt Him is to hurt you. The crosshairs are on you!

This means you have everything to do with the outcome of this war.

You will go head to head with Satan on this battlefield every day. God wants you to take ground and make progress while Satan wants you to lose territory God once held.

Consider Phil. 1:12. Paul has been imprisoned for preaching the gospel, yet he says, “the things that have happened to me have actually turned out for the furtherance of the gospel.” The word “furtherance” is a military term. It’s the idea of an army advancing onto enemy territory. This is what Paul was doing. He was making advances for the gospel.

However, our advances can easily go back the other way. Heb. 2:1 warns against drifting away. This is the way the devil likes it. We slip and hardly realize it is happening! The story of the prodigal son shows one drifting into degradation and the slop of the pigpen before he “came to himself” (Luke 15:17). This implies that he had not been himself. Little by little the devil moved him.

Hold Your Ground

It is here that we must learn something crucial. As Christian soldiers we must not give the devil a place, a foothold, a place to stand. Don’t give ground! He cannot take ground unless we give it to him. We must resist him (James 4:7). Somehow in the church resist has been changed to ignore. If we ignore him we lose!

God has given us His help, His strength, and His armor (Eph. 6:10-20). Have you ever noticed in the Christian armor, there is no armor for the back? Maybe that’s because we don’t retreat! We don’t turn our backs. We take it to him! A good brother in Christ showed me his Bible cover upon which he penned: **B-I-B-L-E—Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth.** I like that. That brother knows that he’s in a war.

Take It Back!

Is there ground you once held, that Satan has reclaimed? If there is, **take it back!** How? Repent, submit to God, and start resisting again (James 4:7).

Are you “on fire” for the Lord as you once were? How are your habits of praying and reading Scripture? Has Satan taken much of that ground? **Take it back!** What about your relationship with your spouse? Was there a time when you cultivated that love? Has Satan crept on to that territory? **Take it back!**

Have there been slippages in areas of morality? Was there a time when you would not have touched alcohol? Are you still there or would you defend social drinking nowadays? **Take it back!** What about pornography and pre-marital sex? Do cigarettes control you? What about prescription meds? Have they been allowed to become addictions? **Take it back!**

What about modesty? Would you wear things today that you would not have worn some time ago? How’s your language? Or maybe you don’t do these things but you express things that sound like you approve. Have you become desensitized to sin? Does your *Facebook* status reveal a person who is godly? **Take it back!**

Is there a relationship with a brother or sister in Christ that needs to be restored (Matt. 18:15)? Are you letting the devil hold that ground? **Take it back!**

We can and must take it back. After all the task ahead of us is never as great as the power behind us. Be strong in the Lord (Eph. 6:10). The One who is in us is greater than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4). Reclaim surrendered ground! **Now!**

—Think on These Things 3/25/12

=====

Our Gospel Meeting

Begins three weeks from today, **April 22-27. Robert Harkrider** will be the speaker. This will be a very important event for all of us as members of this congregation. Robert is a talented and faithful preacher of God’s holy word and he will do us good. Make plans to be in every service possible, pray for the meeting, for Robert, for ourselves, and invite your relatives and friends to the meeting.

NEWS (continued from back page) doing better—**Irma May** had a procedure done last Monday at the local hospital to clean out some infection in her leg. She went home the same day—**Wanda Sikes’** knee replacement surgery is scheduled for this coming Wednesday at Paris Regional Hospital—**Lenelle Latimer** got a good report from her doctor in Tyler last Monday and she does not have congestive heart failure—**Ricky Davis** had chemo treatments this past week for his high white blood cell count and will have more in about three weeks—**Joan Tosh** has been in the Pittsburg Hospital for several days. She has broken ribs due to a fall—**Dustin Adair**, Peggy Bellamy’s grandson, will be scheduled soon for the removal again of the tumor in his head that is attached to his pituitary gland—**Zach Willeford** is doing well following his arm surgery but he is still having issues with his liver and they will monitor it—**Melita Rivers** and **Peggy Bellamy** were not in our service Wednesday night because of helping with the sick—**James and June Johnson** were not in the service Wednesday night due to a doctor’s appointment—**R.J. Stevens** was moved this past week from the Presbyterian Hospital in Dallas to a skilled nursing facility across the street. He is making slow improvement but his recovery will take time—Continue to remember **Pat** and **Deborah Brown** and **Tammy Willeford**—Remember our **Shut-ins: Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Irma May, Lelda Thompson** and **Joan Tosh.**