

NEWS

Relda Marshall had surgery to remove the tumor from her pancreas on Thursday. Once the surgery began, the doctors discovered that the tumor was bigger than they thought. They had to remove her gall bladder, spleen, part of her small intestine, and her entire pancreas. She will now have to have insulin for the rest of her life. Her recovery will take a couple of months and then she will begin chemotherapy. Relda and Pat have a long road ahead of them—**Naomi Copeland** continues to recover from her surgery to remove the mass from her neck. She is having some pain but is improving everyday—(cont. on p. 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 15, 2012

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture: **Andrew Arnold**

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

Sunday Evening

Phil Brown **Ron Burns**

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—**Luke Arnold (Opening)**

—**William White (Closing)**

PM—**James Johnson (Opening)**

—**Tom Davis (Closing)**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—**Ken Ferguson**

P.M.—**Ken Johnson**

(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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Hide It Under A Bushel? No!

By *Bubba Garner*

The book of Acts is a book of conversions. It is the historical record of the apostles fulfilling the Great Commission of Christ, “go into all the world and preach the gospel” (Mark 16:15). They did so in Jerusalem, Samaria, Caesarea, and in the uttermost parts of the world. They did so with great success.

In Acts 16, Paul and Silas were on the Second Missionary Journey and came to Troas. There, Paul received a vision in the night of a man who said, “Come over to Macedonia and help us” (Acts 16:9). They set course immediately. While in Philippi, a leading city of Macedonia, they taught and baptized Lydia and her household. This initial success was quickly countered with an altercation with the local law enforcement. Though Paul and Silas were put in jail, they were not set free from their responsibility to preach the gospel of Christ.

Jesus said to “let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven” (Matt. 5:16). Everyone has a light, one that is not meant for hiding but shining. Never is this more clearly seen than through Paul and Silas’ behavior in their dark prison cell.

What can we learn from their shining example?

You will face many temptations to turn your off your light. Paul and Silas had every right to be discouraged. Their robes torn off of them, they were beaten with rods with “many blows,” thrown into the inner prison, the most secure cell, and their feet fastened in stocks (Acts 16:22-24). This was a device used to spread the legs as far apart as possible, to ensure cramps and discomfort. What was their reaction in all of this? Did they grumble and complain? Did they threaten to quit or surrender? “But about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God” (Acts 16:25). Their candles were literally burning the midnight oil.

The darkest times are when you must shine even brighter. Your attitude reveals a great deal about your character. Christians ought to be people who respond differently to tragedy and calamity than the rest of the world. We see the bigger picture. We know God is still in control. We believe He has the power to work everything together for good.

Paul and Silas were singing “hymns of praise” in prison. It’s as if they were thanking God for the privilege of persecution. When disaster strikes, don’t look for the “off” switch. Press “on.”

You never know who can see your light. The Lord was not the only one hear-

ing their prayers and songs. “And the prisoners were listening to them” (Acts 16:25). The sounds in their cell were as important as the words of their sermons on the streets. Remember, Paul and Silas had received a vision to go to Macedonia, concluding that God had called them to go preach the gospel there. And they were not about to quit preaching. Even in jail, they saw an opportunity to turn these prisoners into bond-servants of Jesus Christ.

People are watching you, too. In your neighborhood, in your classes, on your team, at your work. They notice that you are different. They don’t hear the same words coming out of your mouth that they hear from other people. They don’t see you going the same places and participating in the same activities as those in the world. Or do they...?

God has called all of us to preach. Not just with our words but with our example, how we live our lives. The purpose of letting your light shine is so men will “see your good works and glorify your Father” (Matt. 5:16). They’ve already seen plenty of bad ones. Give them something good to watch. Let them see Him who is source of light.

You can’t be a light without sending the light. Souls were saved the night Paul and Silas shone. After the earthquake that

shook the foundations of the prison, the jailer awoke to find all the doors opened. When he learned that none of the prisoners had escaped, he ran and fell before the feet of Paul and Silas and asked, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved” (Acts 16:30)? The jailer must have been listening to their songs and prayers along with the prisoners. He went to them with a question he knew they could answer. He could see that they were living the kind of life they were preaching about.

You have souls to rescue, souls to save. Make sure that people know where to find you. If they can make no distinction between you and the rest of the world enslaved to sin, what reason would they have to ask you about salvation (cf. 1 Pet. 3:15)? And make certain you’re prepared for the opportunity. Paul and Silas “spoke the word of the Lord to him” that night (Acts 16:32). How much would their flame had been extinguished had they not been able to answer his question of eternal life?

There are some people whom you alone can reach. Be sure to leave the light on for them.

The same jailer who had fastened the feet of Paul and Silas in the stocks was baptized and set free from the bondage of sin. Think about him the next time you are

tempted to hide your light under a bushel.

-via southsideonline.org

Gospel Meetings

*The North Main church of Christ in Gladewater will have a meeting April 13-15. They will meet Friday at 7:30 and Saturday at 2:00 and 6:00. Todd McAdams of Livingston will be there.

*The Franklin Dr. church of Christ in Texarkana, AR is having a singing on Friday, April 13 at 7:00 PM. Dan Shepard, Tim Stevens, Todd Dennis, and Antony Parsons will be leading.

NEWS (cont. from back page)
Wanda Sikes had her knee replacement surgery last Wednesday. Everything went well and she was scheduled to come back to Mt. Pleasant on Friday—**Zach Willeford** will be going back to the doctor on Monday to have more tests to check his liver. He has been improving—**David Hartsell**, a gospel preacher in Tuscaloosa, AL, is in MD Anderson hospital. He had brain surgery, began having seizures, and is currently in a chemically induced coma. He is in critical condition—**RJ Stevens** continues to recover from his stroke in a rehabilitation center in Dallas. He will have a long recovery—Let’s remember **Pat Brown, Deborah Brown and Tammy Willeford** as they have ongoing health issues —**Remember** our **Shut-ins:** *Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Irma May, Lelda Thompson, Joan Tosh, & Ruby Bell.*