

NEWS

Christine Davis was in the local hospital a few days this past week. She went home from the hospital this past Friday—**Melita Rivers** had a procedure done on her eyes the early part of this past week and was not in the service Wednesday night—**June Johnson** was in our service Wednesday night for the first time since her surgery. It is good to see her making progress—**Relda Marshall** continues to deal well with her chemo treatments, and let's continue to remember to pray for her and do whatever we can to help and encourage (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:

July 29, 2012

Serving The Lord's Supper

Sunday Morning

Scripture: **Ken Ferguson**
Thomas Hockaday **Ron Burns**
Charles Davis **Bobby Burns**

Sunday Evening

Thomas Hockaday **Ron Burns**

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—**Phil Brown** (Opening)
—**Willie Don Davis** (Closing)
PM—**Bob Arnold** (Opening)
—**Paul Chapman** (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—**Leon Goff**
P.M.—**Ken Johnson**

(notify **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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Faithful To What

By *Robert F. Turner*

I believe Christians may “depart from the faith,” “fall away from grace,” even “deny the Lord that bought them” (1 Tim. 1; Gal. 5:4; 2 Pet. 2:1) for the scriptures clearly teach this. Our Baptist friends err when they apply 1 John 2:19a to “all” (note 19b) who fully backslide.

But “we” err in thinking that all who are baptized, and are “faithful” in their home-town, are truly converted to Christ.

It is a common cry in California, Arizona—and I suspect in the northeastern industrial areas—that many “faithful Christians” from Tennessee, Oklahoma or Texas, come there to work, and “never darken the church doors.” Friends write that they were “faithful to the church” back home.

And that is it—exactly. They were indeed “faithful to the church” (apparently) *but were not faithful to the Lord*. Many “grew up in the church” without really knowing, in a direct and personal way, the truth. They may have been drilled in “the right answers” concerning baptism, the Lord’s Supper, instrumental music, etc., yet never have committed themselves to honest Bible study—never have given themselves whole-heartedly to Christ.

“Back home” their parents—and later, their friends—expected them to “be faithful” (meaning, attend the “services”) and they did so. But away from home, separated from home-town pressures to conform, their

lack of genuine ties to Christ is apparent. It was not “worldly California” that drew them away—although I offer no rose to materialism in California *or* Tennessee. They simply were not bound by the love of God in the first place.

Much of our lament about the young people who “quit the church” is equally misdirected. “Area-wide” socials, “church skating parties” and other “fellowship hall” activities do not bind the youth to Christ. They actually increase the rate of apostasy when these young people leave home and are thrown into an environment that calls for spiritual strength. We have fed hungry souls with hamburgers. We have deprived them of training for the church-world, light-darkness battles they must meet in adult life.

Is “churchanity” responsible for much of the weak spiritual fiber seen in those who go astray? I believe it is—and have, for twenty years or more, been preaching the evils of “party line” religion. But God forbid that I should deny the existence of the divinely authorized local church, or the organized functions of its members. Sectarianism arises among God’s people—whether they call themselves “church” or “group”—when they regard themselves as the standard for “soundness.” “No church” may be as much a party line as any “church-of-Christ” ever preached.

The church doesn’t need another

saviour; we (the church distributively) simply need to be faithful to the Saviour we have. By this example, and by objective, non-sectarian appraisal of our practices in the light of the word of God, we may be able to teach the next generation to turn to the *Lord*, and cleave to *Him*. (Acts 11:20f)

—*Plain Talk*, September 1966

The Glorious Church

The “glorious church” of Eph. 5:27 has been subjected to much abuse by those who “glory” in the institution, while failing to see the necessary characteristics for such an application. The thought in this scripture is that Christ gave himself (upon the cross) so that individuals might be cleansed and set apart “with the washing of water by the word.” The saved ones are grouped or collected by the word “church,” which is “glorious” by virtue of “not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

From the first of the Ephesian letter GOD’S “glory” is shown to be the eternal purpose of all things. Saints are chosen in Christ “that we should be holy and without blame before him”— “*to the praise of the glory of his grace*” (1:4-6). Verse 12 says, “That we should be to the praise of his glory,” and verse 14, “unto the praise of his glory.” God is called the “Father of glory” (vs. 17), and that which

saints shall inherit has glory that is rich (vs. 18). Paul’s tribulations are said to be “your glory” (3:13) but the obvious reference is to their ultimate benefit, not to aggrandizement. The closing verse of chapter three says, “Unto him (GOD) be glory” and the church *gives* rather than receives the praise. God is glorified when His creatures are faithful unto Him; albeit such faithfulness is possible only through the forgiveness that is in Christ. Hence, the faithful church (in Christ) is the spiritual sphere for this praise-giving.

The “glorious church” is a people who have gone back to thinking and acting as God intended from the beginning (Eph. 4:23-25). They have “put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him” (Col. 3:10). We are made to glorify God, but in our sin we have failed miserably. Now, in Christ, we can be renewed “in the spirit of your mind” and the change in conduct which accompanies such a renewal.

The “church” that is “glorious” is that body of people who have gone to Christ for sanctification and cleansing with the washing of water by the word; and, continue to glorify God by doing all to His glory (1 Cor. 10:31).

—*Plain Talk*, December 1978

Monthly Ladies Class

Will meet this next Thursday night at 6:00 at Pat Brown’s house, 61 CR 3215. All ladies are invited to attend.

Gospel Meeting

Marc Smith will be the speaker in a meeting at the Church of Christ in Cooper, TX, July 29 — August 1. Service will be at 7:00 PM weeknights.

Progress on the New Building!

Last Monday morning the slab was poured. The parking lot is being prepared for the pouring of the concrete, and materials for the building will be delivered by July 30. Soon we will be seeing the super structure going up. We appreciate your interest and your support.

NEWS (continued from back page) her and Pat—Continue to remember **Catherine Moss** as she continues her bed rest to delay the delivery of her baby—**Joe Martinez**, Alma’s sister’s husband, passed away around 6:00 Friday evening in the San Bernardino, CA area. Alma and I may be making a trip to California in the next few days—Remember our **Shut-ins**: Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Irma May, Lelda Thompson and Joan Tosh.