

NEWS

Ronald Stringer saw his doctor last Monday and his diagnosis was confirmed as being MS. He will be receiving shots, medication and physical therapy as treatments. These will be done to try to stop the progression of the disease, and hopefully to improve some of the symptoms he is already having—**Debbie Rust**, Betty’s daughter-in-law, had her back surgery in Wyoming Thursday—**Kenneth Amerson** is having problems with reactions to his medication and he has requested our prayers—**Dana Welch Crawford**, Phil (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:
November 18, 2012**

**Serving The Lord’s Supper
Sunday Morning**

Scripture: Charles Kyle
Bob Arnold **Luke Arnold**
Kevin Kanaley **Austin Fulmer**

Sunday Evening
Bob Arnold **Luke Arnold**

PRAYERS
Sun. AM—Pat Marshall (Opening)
 —Ron Traugher (Closing)
PM—Paul Chapman (Opening)
 —Tom Davis (Closing)

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

(notify 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
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Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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Discipleship ‘Light’

By *Bubba Garner*

I love cran-grape juice. This is odd, because I don’t particularly care for cranberry or grape juice by themselves. But when you put them together, the result is the perfect combination of sweetness and tartness.

Last week, Melissa asked me to pick up a few things from HEB on my way home from the office. Cran-grape juice wasn’t on the list, but it somehow made its way into the basket. When I got home, I poured some into a glass and got ready for that familiar flavor. After the first swallow, I knew something was dreadfully wrong. It was then that I noticed a word on the label that had somehow escaped my attention at the grocery store. Light!

You can buy a lot of things “light” these days: sour cream, cream cheese, ice cream. Basically anything that tastes good comes in a “light” variation. One product even boasts that it contains “all of the taste with none of the guilt.” But I haven’t found that to be the case with any of the ones I’ve tried. Because the light version is never as good as the original.

This same concept is prevalent in the religious world. It is the mindset that what God requires is too difficult for us to keep, as when Jero-boam told the Israelites, “It is *too much* for you to go up to Jerusalem” (1 Kings 12:28). So as long as we keep some form of religion or semblance of service, God will be satisfied. In other words, we can have all of the taste with none of the guilt.

Many view Jesus' requirements for discipleship as too rigid and narrow. "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me" (Matt. 16:24). This has produced a variation that is similar to the original but not the same: Discipleship *Light*.

Indulge yourself. You don't have to deny yourself. That's too restrictive. God wants you to be happy and have whatever your heart desires, even if it is contrary to His will. So, hold nothing back and indulge your impulses. After all, it's your body, your right, your life.

To be a disciple of someone is to follow after their example, to pattern your life after their life. The early disciples were called "Christians" (Acts 11:26) because of their connection to their Master, their likeness to the Original. That being the case, did Jesus practice self-indulgence or self-denial? Which steps did He leave for us to follow? The first thing He requires of anyone who wants to follow Him is the willingness to put yourself last. He left the glory of heaven to come down to a sinful world. Is He asking "too much" for you to leave the things behind that get in the way of fully following Him?

Take up your cross when you can. Conviction often gets crowded out by convenience. It's not a matter of what is right but a matter of what is right *now*.

When it is just not convenient to be a Christian, you don't have to be. Depending on where you are or who you're with, just keep His commandments as best as you can. You don't want a religion that holds you accountable. You want one you can control.

The cross was the symbol of commitment. It was the indication of your readiness to face death rather than forsake your convictions. Paul commended Priscilla and Aquila because they "risked their own necks" (Rom. 16:4) for the sake of the cause. It's what Jesus requires from all of His disciples: a commitment to "take up his cross." It implies that there will be tough times ahead, times when it will be more convenient to quit or turn back. But the real follower of Jesus bears his load until "it is finished."

Follow Him when it fits. His plans for your life may not always fit what you have in mind. When that happens, you are free to go your own way. Follow His will when it matches yours, but take the more attractive path when it appears down the road.

When Jesus asked men to follow Him, He wasn't merely interested in traveling companions. He wants disciples who follow Him in trust. Like a sheep with his Shepherd, you must believe that He is leading you in the right path to safety and provision. And whenever you see a way that you think fits better, have the faith to

pray, "not my will, but Yours be done (Luke 22:42). Only then can He take you to your Father's house.

Discipleship *Light* may have some similarities with the original, but it does not measure up. True discipleship allows you to "grow in respect to salvation, if you have tasted that the Lord is sweet" (1 Pet. 2:2-3). Don't settle for anything less.

—*Drawing Near to God*, 9/16/11

Happiness

One unknown author gave the following potent prescription for happiness. It is easy to see that the principles come from the Bible: "Keep your heart free from hate, your mind from worry, live simply, expect little, give much, sing often, pray always, fill your life with love, scatter sunshine, forget self, think of others and their feelings. Do as you would have done to you. These are tried links in the golden chain of contentment." Hence, happiness is found in faithfully living in the kingdom of God (1 Peter 3:10-11).

—Harold Hancock, *Good News*

He Who Wins Souls Is Wise

"The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise" (Proverbs 11:30).

~ He recognizes the value of the soul (Matthew 16:26).

~ He redeems the time (Ephesians 5:15-17).

~ He will have a "crown of rejoicing" in

the presence of the Lord at His coming (1 Thessalonians 2:19-20).

Be Wise!

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NEWS (continued from back page)

Brown's niece, is having bile duct problems in association with her cancer. The doctors are working to try to resolve this—**Bryce Woods**, Shirley Duncan's great nephew, is in a hospital in Seattle, Washington with a serious viral infection and is on a respirator—**Bettye Mitchell** saw her doctor Tuesday and her hip has not healed as well as her doctor had hoped. She will have 3 and 1/2 more weeks of therapy and she will see him again and a decision will be made as to what will be done after that—**Paul and Carla Chapman** are in Alabama with Carla's father, Carlos Barnes. He is having confusion problems probably the results of reaction to medication—**Asher Hancock** had a shot this past week, developed fever and the Hancocks were not in the service Wednesday night—**Brantley Moss**, Jeremy and Catherine's son, was sick this past week—**Amanda, Brodie, and Daxon Willeford** were sick Wednesday night and not in our service—**Jay Hancock** was sick last Sunday and not able to be in our services—Continue to remember **Relda Marshall, David Hill, Pat Brown, Deborah Brown Reed, and Tammy Willeford** in their health struggles—Remember our **Shut-ins**: *Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Irma May, Bettye Mitchell, Lelda Thompson and Joan Tosh.*