

NEWS

Alicia Hancock had surgery this past Wednesday at the local hospital and went home the same day. She was having quite a bit of pain soon after surgery—**Brantley and Zachary Moss** were both sick last Sunday and Catherine and Jeremy were not able to be with us—**Catherine Moss** is scheduled to have hernia surgery Wednesday, December 19—**Lynn Lovell** had serious back trouble last week and was not able to be in our services last Sunday—**Ronald Stringer** has received approval for his shots for his MS, and the nurse will (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:
December 16, 2012**

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

Scripture: Ron Traugher
Ken Ferguson Pat Marshall
Ricky Davis Kevin Kanaley

Sunday Evening
Ken Ferguson Pat Marshall

PRAYERS

Sun. AM—Charles Kyle (Opening)
—Thomas Hockaday (Closing)
PM—Willie Don Davis (Opening)
—William White (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—Leon Goff
P.M.—Paul Chapman

(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
P.O. Box 242
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Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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Those Precious Babies

By L.A. Stauffer

Life's not just a "bowl of cherries;" neither is it a bowl of popcorn cradled on one's lap in a Lazy Boy chair before a TV. Maybe it's because I'm grandpa to 15 grandchildren, but to me life gets more serious day by day. Life is an awesome responsibility; its weight bears heavily on my heart almost hourly. It's increasingly more difficult to take calmly the death of one outside Christ, to observe in silence the misdirected lives of youth, and to relax amidst the innocent but frivolous activities of brethren who have only a trifling interest in spiritual matters.

This is especially true with the seemingly endless arrival of new babies. What mothers and fathers nestle in their arms is something more precious than gold, or fine homes, or jewelry, or automobiles. But do youthful parents sense the value of that commodity that rests in their hands? Probably not. I didn't at that age. The hustle, the busyness, and the materialistic tug of life rob many parents of both the time and perspective to even think much about it.

Babies are not just intelligent puppies or kittens. They need more than a little food thrown in a bowl, an occasional change of garments, to be potty trained, or to be cuddled once in a while. These activities are a part of parental responsibility. We recognize this. But parents, amidst ordinary life, must not forget the extraordinary: that God breathed into that child His own image (Gen. 1:26-27). Children are not just animals; they are inwardly endowed with the likeness of God. That spirit, as the body, must be nourished, clothed, trained, and cuddled.

Fathers and mothers must think from day one about the eternal destiny of the precious ones God has given them (2 Tim. 3:15). Parents must accept immediately as their ultimate goal—not the cutest outfits displayed in the latest fashion magazine, not the most exotic toys devised by clever engineers, not the most ambitious goals set by a carnal world, but the growth and development of the child’s spirit. The child must from the start learn of faith in God, love of God, morality, hope, and character in the likeness of Jesus.

Several things are necessary to this development.

Parental Example

No one detects hypocrisy and spiritual inconsistency more readily than children. They almost instinctively sense the difference between real faith and mechanical service to God. They see deception and dishonesty beneath the subtlest garbs. And an atmosphere of love or hate, or indifference between parents or between parents and children is felt in a child’s sensitive soul. The quality of life parents exude is certainly absorbed into the porous spirits of their offspring in those tender years. How well most Bible students remember the partiality of Isaac and Rebekah reflected in the life of Jacob.

Parental Training

No one believes that mere parental

example or taking children to Bible classes will complete the task of training children in the way they should go. The example of fathers and mothers and teaching in Bible classes are merely supplemental to the responsibility of nurturing children in the ways and will of the Lord. Yes, this takes time, but if parents have time to teach youngsters to “coo,” to “walk,” to “talk,” to “count,” to “read,” to “brush their teeth,” to “dress” themselves, to “throw a ball”—they have time to tell them Bible stories, train their minds in the way of the Lord, and inculcate daily sacred principles into their souls (Deut. 6:1-9; Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:1-4).

Spiritual Family

The training and discipline of the inward man in precious children must take note of the necessity of a spiritual family—the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. From a babe they must learn the sacred writings and the value of assembling with the saints (Heb. 10:24-25; 2 Tim. 3:15). Fathers and mothers who think casually about the significance of these gatherings and their activities assure the indifference and death of their children’s souls. Children who grow up in families that assemble sporadically and only occasionally will likely attach little importance to the need of a spiritual family amidst an evil world and its corrupting influence. And youngsters who hear parents constantly and incessantly gripe and complain about the song leader, the elders, the preacher,

the length of the services, etc., have little chance of loving the Lord and His body.

Yet, brethren, life is serious. And parenthood is a good example of how laden with responsibility it is. But nothing is as rewarding as looking back on the days of parenting and seeing children and grandchildren giving themselves to God.

—*Think on These Things*, 12/2/12

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Modern-Day Idols

We often quote Jeremiah 10:23.

I know, O Lord, that the way of man is not himself, that it is not in man who walks to direct his steps.

The context of that statement bemoans the reliance that Judah placed in idols. The people “do not inquire of the LORD” (v.21), but instead fashion their own gods from gold or wood (vv. 6-10).

Unfortunately, idolatry remains prevalent in American culture today. Sure, we may not bow down to a literal idol, but when we fail to let God direct our steps, we are just as backward and foolish as God’s people in the past.

Worried about your financial future in light of our current national recession? For all of your hand-wringing, have you considered taking it to the one Person who

can actually do something about it?

Concerned about the outcome of a trial you’re facing right now? Not sure what’s going to happen? God knows what you need, even before you ask it (Matt. 6:8). He wants to help, but you must be willing to seek him and accept his answer.

Correct me, O LORD, but in justice; Not in your anger, lest you bring me to nothing.

—Jeremiah 10:24

—Marc Hinds, *Think on These Things*, 11/25/12.

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NEWS (continued from back page) visit him tomorrow to teach him how to give himself the shots. So that means he will have his first shot tomorrow—**Lee Roy Newman**, Marion Shurtleff’s brother has been moved to the Skilled Nursing Unit on the fourth floor of the local hospital. He is making gradual progress—**Betty Mitchell** continues in the Pleasant Springs Nursing Home and continues to do some better—Continue to remember **Relda Marshall, David Hill, Pat Brown, Deborah Brown Reed, Dana Welch Crawford, and Tammy Willeford** in their health struggles—Remember our **Shut-ins: Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Irma May, Betty Mitchell, Lelda Thompson** and **Joan Tosh**.