

NEWS

Boots Walker entered the local hospital on Tuesday due to low blood sugar causing him to not feel well. They took care of the problem and he went home Wednesday—**The Willefords** were not able to be in the service Wednesday night. **Amanda** had been sick at her stomach since Monday, **Zach** had gotten a piece of steel in his eye, scratching it, and giving him a headache, and the boys were also having a problem—**Bob Arnold** is making good progress since his Pancreatic cancer surgery. He was in our service last Sunday (continued on page 3)

ELDERS:
Bob Arnold 563-2977
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:
Jared Rogers 682-300-3602
Leon Goff 572-6809

**ASSIGNMENTS FOR:
May 25, 2014**

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

Scripture: Andrew Arnold
Thomas Hockaday Ron Burns
Bobby Burns Richard Tapparo

Sunday Evening
Thomas Hockaday Ron Burns

PRAYERS
Sun. AM—Ron Traugher (Opening)
—Charles Kyle (Closing)
PM—Zach Willeford (Opening)
—James Johnson (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS
A.M.—Bob Arnold
P.M.—Pat Marshall
(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
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Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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When Dreams Turn to Doubt

By *Bubba Garner*

Nearly 20 times in the Scriptures, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are mentioned together. They are the faces of the Patriarchal Age and of the covenant God made with the Hebrews. But have you ever noticed how much space is devoted in the book of Genesis to telling the story of the fourth patriarch, Joseph? There is no effort to merely hit the highlights or skim the headlines of his life. In fact, the only other person who is given more chapters in the first book of the Bible is Abraham, the father of the faithful.

I think there's a reason for that. Many of us have felt what Joseph felt; we've been where Joseph was. That is, we've experienced the bitter disappointments of life. We've had things happen to us where even our own family members were against us. We've been accused of things that were not true and suffered just because we were trying to do the right thing.

But how many of us have endured these things and responded the way Joseph did? Who has taken hit after hit and kept an unflinching faith in God? Perhaps that's why so much space is given to telling his story.

Joseph was called the "dreamer" by his brothers (Gen. 37:19). And he still serves as an example to the spiritual descendants of Abraham when our own dreams appear to be in doubt.

You don't have to be a slave to your circumstances. Joseph's brothers were so filled with hatred and jealousy toward him that they sold him for the equivalency of \$15, the price of a slave. Surely Joseph never dreamed his

life would take a turn in that direction. But notice what path he pursued after his hopes seemingly came crashing down. “The Lord was with Joseph, and he was a successful man” (Gen. 39:2).

Some people are looking for the perfect life. They want the perfect family who lives in the perfect house and drives the perfect car in the perfect world. But that’s not the way it works out. That’s not even the way it worked out for the man who holds the second-most amount of space in the book of Genesis. Yet, one of the common reactions when life deals us this way is to throw up our hands and concede defeat. You don’t have to do that. You don’t have to be a slave to bitterness, discouragement, and selfishness. When the Lord is with you, freedom is always in your future.

When you’ve been wronged, you still have to act right. Potiphar’s wife, the original “Desperate Housewife,” was after Joseph. She “cast longing eyes” (Gen. 39:7) at him and pursued him “day by day” (Gen. 39:10) to lie with her. What was the response of a handsome 17 year-old-boy who was a captive in a foreign land? “How then could I do this great wickedness, and sin against God” (Gen. 39:9). In all that had happened to him, Joseph understood that committing fornication was not going to bring back what he had lost. Such a sin would only serve to make matters worse.

We have a tendency at times to add trouble to trouble. The husband has a bad day at the office, so he comes home and yells at his wife and kids. A teenager thinks his parents are treating him unfairly so he goes out drinking with his friends. A wife has a husband who won’t communicate with her so she confides in another man and commits adultery. What problems do such actions solve? What relationships are repaired? Sin never makes a wrong right. Let our behavior, no matter the circumstances that surround us, be pleasing to our Master in heaven.

Your plans may not always meet with God’s purpose. Years later, Joseph made himself known to his brothers having risen to second-in-command of all Egypt. But he did not repay evil for evil or punish them for what they had done. By then, he could see the bigger picture. “For God sent me before you to preserve life...and to save your lives by a great deliverance. So now it was not you who sent me here, but God” (Gen. 45:5-8). Surely Joseph had earlier prayed for deliverance from his brothers and for release from prison. But those prayers were answered not according to his timetable but in His time.

We must maintain a similar faith in what God is working in our own lives. Remember, he causes “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose” (Rom. 8:28).

Joseph knew that the same God who brought him down to Egypt in an Ishmaelite caravan would one day bring his family out of Egypt to inherit the land sworn to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Heb. 11:22). May we have such a confidence in the plans and purposes of God. How will you respond the next time you encounter various trials? Joseph’s example shows us that with God, our dreams really can come true. —*Think on These Things*, 2/3/13

The Holy Spirit and The Word

The Holy Spirit is not the Word and the Word is not the Holy Spirit, but the Word came through, or by, the Holy Spirit. The Word came when “*holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit*” (2 Peter 1:21). Paul said, “*Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual*” (1 Corinthians 2:12-13).

The Word is the “sword of the Spirit” (Ephesians 6:17); The Holy Spirit is not “the sword”; the “sword” is not the Holy Spirit, but the Holy Spirit uses the Word (the sword) to convict and convert sinners, to sanctify believers, and to fight against error (Acts 2:37-38: John 17:17; Titus 1:9).

Since the Word came by the Holy Spirit, when one rejects the Word, he re-

jects the Holy Spirit. This is why Stephen told his audience, “*ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets (men moved by the Holy Spirit, ^{hh}) have not your fathers persecuted?*” (Acts 7:51,52). We “*quench the Spirit*” (1 Thessalonians 5:19) when we refuse to let the Word work in our lives.

The opposite is true, also. If we receive the Word, we receive the Holy Spirit. Furthermore, if the “*word of Christ dwell in you richly*” (Colossians 3:16) you are “*filled with the Spirit*” (Ephesians 5:18,19).

The Holy Spirit is not the Word, but how we react to the Word determines our relationship to the Holy Spirit.

—Harold Hancock, *Good News*

NEWS (continued from back page) and Wednesday nights—**Judy Hinson** is having difficulty since her chemo treatment and she is scheduled to have another treatment Thursday—**Randy Blackmon** got a good report when he visited his doctor this past week. And he also went to El Paso to visit his son, Philip, this past week—**Stephen Hall** is doing better and is helping his mother, Judy—Remember **Relda Marshall, Michele Williams, Maurine Lee, Pat Brown, Dorothy Kyle, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford, Shirley Ferguson, Howard Shelby, Ronald Stringer, and Boots Walker**—Remember our **Shut-ins: Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Maurine Lee, Irma May, and Lelda Thompson.**