

## NEWS

**Terry Harp**, Christine Davis' son-in-law, Emily Latson's and Tom Davis' brother-in-law, passed away Friday morning. No arrangement had been made at the time of this writing. We express our sincere sympathy to Linda, his wife, and the entire family—**Kenny and Karen Ferguson's unborn grandson** has a pinched nerve in his heart, and will have surgery to correct that immediately after birth. Prayers are requested—**Joyce Williams' 18 year old Great Grandson, Dalton**, has been diagnosed with MS, and prayers are requested (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** 717-3788  
**Leon Goff** 572-6809

### ASSIGNMENTS FOR:

**July 27, 2014**

#### Serving The Lord's Supper

##### Sunday Morning

Scripture: Andrew Arnold

**Paul Chapman**      **Zach Willeford**  
**Tom Davis**         **Ricky Davis**

##### Sunday Evening

**Paul Chapman**      **Zach Willeford**

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### PRAYERS

Sun. AM—**Randy Blackmon** (Opening)

—**William White** (Closing)

PM—**Kenneth Amerson** (Opening)

—**Willie Don Davis** (Closing)

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

A.M.—**Leon Goff**

P.M.—**Kendall Johnson**

(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  
P.O. Box 242  
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456

# Southside Church of Christ

## Bulletin

1220 E. Ferguson Rd. Mt. Pleasant, Texas 75455

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Website: [www.thesouthsidechurch.com](http://www.thesouthsidechurch.com)

Volume XXI

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Number 29

## Sharing the Gospel

By Harold Hancock

Nabeel Qureshi in his book, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, chronicles his journey from Islam to "Christianity." I bought the book especially for part 7, chapters thirty-six through thirty-nine, "The Truth about Muhammad." I am looking to make my sermon, "Why Christianity? Why Not Other World Religions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, and Islam?" more poignant and effective. However, I gained other helpful information about Islam and Christianity as I read Nabeel's book. I was also reminded that Christians need to be sharing the gospel, not just out of duty, but out of care, or concern, for the souls of others.

In his book Nabeel tells of a conversation that took place when he was in the tenth grade and still steeped in his faith as a Muslim. He was asked by a classmate if he knew about Jesus. Nabeel gave a predictable answer to his fellow-student's question about Jesus, but it is Nabeel's reaction to his classmate's question that I want you to consider. He writes, "I immediately gained respect for her. Why had other Christians never asked me this question? They think I need Jesus to go to heaven, right? Were they content with letting me go to hell, or did they not really believe their faith?"

Isn't Nabeel right? Do we not think one needs Jesus to go to heaven? We should; Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:6). Furthermore, do we not think one needs to do more than just say, "Lord, Lord" to get to heaven? Do we not think that one must "do the will" of the Father to "enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 7:21-23). Do we not think that some who honor Jesus with their lips do so vainly because they teach for doctrines the commandments of

men? (Matthew 15:8-9). Shouldn't we be asking more people if they know Jesus and trying to explain to them "*the way of God more accurately?*" (Acts 18:26). Are we content with letting people go to hell? Do we really believe our "faith?" Paul once said, "*I believed and therefore I spoke*" (2 Corinthians 4:13). Can we respect ourselves if we do not speak up for Jesus and His way?

Drawing from another period of life, his early college years, Nabeel made these observations: "I never listened to street preachers: they didn't seem to care about me....it was that they treated me like an object of their agenda." "Unfortunately, I found many Christians think of evangelism the same way, foisting Christian beliefs on strangers in chance encounters." "Since no Christian cared about me, I did not care about their message."

I would in no way exonerate those who hear the truth but refuse it because they do not like the way it was told to them or the one by whom it was told. One should accept Truth for truth's sake—it comes from God and is worthy of acceptance. Nor would I discourage Christians from sharing the gospel with strangers when the opportunity presents itself. It may be our only opportunity to share the gospel with them, and perhaps, their only opportunity to hear it. But I am mindful of the old adage, "People do not care what you know until they know you care." And

I do think that our attempts to convert others should be more than a mere attempt to declare ourselves victors in a religious debate and more than just an item on our itinerary. We ought to love and care for the souls of others. This should be our motive in teaching others (Ephesians 4:15; Matthew 22:39).

One last observation from Nabeel on this matter of sharing our faith. He states, "The gospel requires a radical life change, and not many people are about to listen to strangers telling them to change the way they live." His conclusion: "Effective evangelism requires relationships. There are very few exceptions." Perhaps, there is much truth in these words, but a word of caution is in order, too.

A good place to start sharing the gospel is among people with whom we have good relationships. Perhaps, we have an advantage with these people. Perhaps, it is easier for us to get an audience with people we know than with strangers. Perhaps, we have already demonstrated or care for these and hence, they are more willing to listen. Perhaps, we have shown them by our example that we are serious about our faith, and they have become intrigued by the desirable fruits of righteousness in our lives. But do not be blind to opportunities to share the gospel with those with whom you are not familiar, a mere acquaintance or a stranger. They are loved by God and their souls are valuable,

too. There is no doubt that accepting the gospel requires a radical life change; it means crucifying with Christ the old man of sin and living a new life with Christ in righteousness (Romans 6:6-7,16). For one to make such a commitment and live up to it, one's faith must be in Christ and His word, not in us (1 Corinthians 3:11). When we teach, let's make sure we convert people to Christ, not to ourselves.

Let's remember—salvation is in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Christ; "*nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved*" (Acts 4:12). We need to be sharing the gospel, the good news of Jesus, with others—Muslims, Jews, our neighbors—everyone! Do it because you love them and because you love God.

### Men's Meeting Today

The elders have decided to have a men's meeting to discuss the work of the congregation and to receive suggestions. It will be **today at 4:45 PM**. All male members of the congregation are invited and encouraged to attend.

### Randy and Stephanie's Address

is **2118 Parks Edge Pl., Columbia, MO 65202**. Randy has recently been diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). I am sure he would appreciate a card or a call.

### Gospel Meetings

**Keith Lambert, Shane Millard, Brady Cook and Jared Rogers** will be the speakers at the Cooper church of Christ, **July 27-30, 7:30 PM Monday and Tuesday. Jared will be speaking Wednesday at 7:00 PM.**

**Scott Finley** will be the speaker at the Hwy 79 church in Henderson, TX, **July 27—30, 7:00 PM** weeknights.

**Westside church in Irving lectures, August 1—3.**

**Rickie Jenkins** will be at the Hubbard St. church in Lindale August 3-8.

**Our meeting October 19-24, Bubba Garner speaker.**

===== **NEWS** (continued from back page)

**Joyce Williams** was dismissed from Rehab Thursday and went to Lisa's (her daughter) home. She will be taking therapy in Atlanta, TX—**Boots Walker** is getting weaker as a result of his cancer and is not able to be in our services—**Debbie Johnson** had ear trouble Sunday night and was not in our service—**Sam White** is doing better and back to preaching. We announced recently that he was having some health problems—Remember **Relda Marshall, Michele Williams, Maurine Lee, Pat Brown, Dorothy Kyle, Deborah Brown, Tammy Willeford, Ronald Stringer, Boots Walker, Judy Hinson and Bob Arnold**—Remember our **Shut-ins:** *Clayton Bellamy, Loyd Clark, Shirley Ferguson, Maurine Lee, Irma May, and Lelda Thompson.*