

NEWS

Nedra Jordan had and virus Wednesday and she and Terry were not able to be in our service——Vickie Brownlee was sick Sunday and not in our services, but she and Doyle were in our service Wednesday night——Judy Hinson was not feeling well Sunday due to her cancer treatment, but she was back in our service Wednesday night——Nova Montgomery was sick Sunday night, but was back in our service Wednesday night——Dorothy Reynolds is scheduled to have knee replacement surgery April 15th, at the hospital her in Mt. Pleasant——Duane McGough’s Father fell and broke his (continued on page 3)

ELDERS:
Bob Arnold 563-2977
Leon Goff 572-6809
Kendall Johnson 717-0265

DEACONS:
Ricky Davis 572-9428
Ken Ferguson 572-4135
Pat Marshall 572-9347

SERVICES:
Sunday
Bible Study 9:45 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 5:00 PM

Wednesday
Ladies Class 10:00 AM
Bible Study 7:00 PM

PREACHERS:
Drew Nelson 254-541-3815
Leon Goff 572-6809

ASSIGNMENTS FOR:
April 14, 2019

Serving The Lord’s Supper
Sunday Morning
Scripture: Ron Traugher
Jerry Wildman Kenneth Amerson
Jessie Carillo Carlos Garcia

Sunday Evening
Jerry Wildman Kenneth Amerson

PRAYERS
Sun. AM—Terry Jordan (Opening)
—Willie Don Davis (Closing)
PM—Alec Capel (Opening)
—Richard Tapparo (Closing)

ANNOUNCEMENTS
A.M.—Ken Ferguson
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
P.O. Box 242
Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456

Southside Church of Christ

Bulletin

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Website: www.thesouthsidechurch.com

Volume XXVI

April 7, 2019

Number 14

Great Men, Terrible Fathers

By Drew Nelson

Have you ever noticed how often “great people” have awful family lives? When the rich and famous wed, it is usually a countdown to tabloid headlines of infidelity and divorce. There is a long history of great leaders who ruled nations, gave momentous speeches, and conquered foreign enemies—all while their family lives came unraveled. Sadly, many Gospel preachers set out to save the world while their own children sit at home missing their dad. The Bible also has record of men like this.

Eli was a priest of God. By all accounts he discharged the duties of that office well. Yet he had two worthless and corrupt sons who brought ruin to his entire household. God evaluated Eli’s parenting skills by saying, “he did not restrain (his sons)” (1 Sam 3:13). What little discipline he tried to administer was too little too late (1 Sam 2:22-25). Eli’s protégé was Samuel, who grew up to be an extremely important prophet, judge, and priest in Israel leading up to the days of monarchy. Yet he had two sons who were corrupt and greedy judges (1 Sam 8:3).

David was the greatest king in Israel’s history. He led the most successful military campaign since Joshua. Yet David was mostly a failure as a father. David’s son Amnon raped his own sister. Absalom enacted a rebellion against his father. The inspired writer evaluated David’s raising of Adonijah this way: “(David) had never at any time displeased him by asking, ‘Why have you done thus and so?’” (1 Kings 1:6). Now David’s son Solomon brought much glory and wealth to Israel. The building of the temple was a tremendous achievement accomplished under Solomon’s

direction. Yet Solomon failed as a father too. His son Rehoboam was a fool from beginning to end.

To be clear, the Bible teaches that parents are not totally responsible for the sins of their children (Ezek 18:20). Good parenting does not create Christian robots. Every son and daughter will answer to God for his or her own decisions. But who can deny the harmful effect of bad or neglectful parenting? Especially in the cases of Eli and David, their failings as fathers are attributed as the root cause of their children’s apostasy. They were busy with religious ceremony, military campaigns, and ruling a nation while their families sat home neglected.

There is something to be said for a quiet and simple life, spent—not in pursuing greatness or solving all the world’s ills—but in simply serving God where you are and being present as a parent and spouse. Solomon gained the whole world, but lost his family. Noah lost the whole world (literally), saving only his family. I’ll take Noah every day of the week.

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Good Ground

By Dan Richardson

“And he that was sown upon the good ground, this is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; who verily beareth fruit and bringeth forth, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.” (Matthew 13:23)

Soon the farmers will be busily stirring to prepare the soil for the Spring planting. Important factors in preparing for this task are good seed, good workers, and of course, good ground. Take any of these away and there won’t be much (if any) of a harvest in fall. Jesus’ parable of the sower (Matthew 13:3-9, 18-23) is about the growth of God’s kingdom, and while it mentions each of these factors, special attention is given to the ground.

The ground represents each individual’s heart, confronted by the gospel of Christ (the seed), along with the consequential outcome. Ground that is “good” is so determined because it serves the purpose God has for it - to be receptive to His seed (“the word of the kingdom,” cf. Matthew 13:19), and to be fruitful in a life of service which glorifies its Creator (John 15:1-7). Let this sink in. Your primary purpose in this life is to fear and obey God (Ecclesiastes 12:13).

The carnal perspective, represented by the wayside, rocky and thorny grounds, is desirable because a different standard is used, and a different purpose is sought. Like a developer of shopping malls would use a criterion unlike that of the farmer to define “good” land, so many have diverse standards in determining the purpose of life they desire. The worth of life is determined either by the amount of material possessions obtained (Luke 12:15), worldly pleasures experienced (1 Timothy 3:4), power wielded over others

(Romans 12:3), and/or people p l e a s e d (Galatians 1:10; - all of which Jesus condemns in the parable under consideration (Matthew 13:19-22).

A good harvest will result when:
1) Christians are faithful to their work as sowers (Acts 8:1-4; 2 Timothy 2:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:8-9). Farmers can’t sit in the house, nor can the seed stay in the barn! 2) The good seed (the gospel of Christ, wherein lies the power of God to germinate spiritual life, Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:22; 4:15; 1 Peter 1:22-23), is sown distinctly and unadulterated from the traditions and doctrines of men (Galatians 1:6-9; 2 Timothy 4:1-4; 2 John 9). One is deceived who thinks he can sow bad seed and reap a good harvest (Galatians 6:7-8). 3) The seed falls upon good ground (hearts who will hear, honestly evaluate, understand, obey and endure patiently in service to God (Matthew 13:23; Luke 8:15)

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Our Gospel Meeting

April 28 through May 3rd, are the dates for our spring meeting of 2019. **Kris Emerson**, from Lindale, TX, will be our speaker. There will be the **regular times on Sunday**, then **weeknight services at 7:30 pm**, and **weekday morning services Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at 10:00 am**. Let’s be working and praying for this meeting. We will benefit from the scriptural, forceful and interesting preaching by Brother Kris.

Gospel Meeting

Wilson Adams is the speaker in a meeting at the **Campbell Road church in Garland, TX, this week, April 7-12, 7:00** weeknights.

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NEWS (continued from back page)
femur bone just below his hip. Duane went to be with him——**Bill Chapman**, Paul’s brother, who lives in southeast Texas, was found on the floor not responding when Paul went to visit him Tuesday. He was taken to a hospital——**Virginia Matthews**, Nedra’s Jordan’s aunt who lives in Nacogdoches, had a stroke and has been in the hospital, but she is being moved to a facility where the family can be with her——**Mrs. Stout**, Charlyn Harrel’s mother, has had seizures and she will be having tests this week——Continue to pray for **June Cox**, Enoch Waldrep’s sister, and **Marion Moon**, Peggy Bellamy’s brother-in-law——**Buford Guthrie**, a former Southside member, has been in the hospital and he is to have a replacement of his pacemaker. He lives in Duncanville, TX——**Courtney Marshall**, Pat’s daughter-in-law, is to have a jaw replacement surgery in June——Remember **June Johnson**, **Randy Blackmon**, **Teresa Tate**, **Carlos Barnes**, **Bob Arnold**, **Frank White**, **William and Yvonne White**, **Jace Hockaday**, **Willie Don Davis**, **Judy Hinson**, **Catherine Moss**, **Deborah Brown**, and **Tammy Willeford**——Remember our **Shut-ins: James Johnson, Betty Rust and Wanda Sikes**.