

News & Notes

Sunday, August 12, 2007

Remember in Prayer: Daryl Alberson; Steve Alberson; Vikie Cobb; Diane Cox; Melba Cox; Sally Etta Crawford; Gwynn Curtis; Robert Gibson; Heather Joyner; Lettie Mae Hunt; Dot Ketchum; Tate King; James Luna; John and Deliah Mann; Carla Miller; Diane Mize; Rob Norman; Shirley Ortiz; Forrest Phelps; Ann Ray; Billy Jean Ray; Judy Robbins; Katherine Shaw; Chris Spence; Jamie Spence; Ron Tega; Calvin Ursery; Nancy Griffin Wamack; Tony Wilburn; Alvie Williford;

Pantry item for the month of August is foil.

Ashland events: Today: Elder's meeting at 4:00 PM; August 18: Teacher appreciation dinner at 6:00 PM; August 19: Youth devotional after the evening service at the Northrop's home;

Area events: August 18: Youth rally at the Gloster Street church of Christ in Tupelo;

Sermon in Preview:

AM: Mt. Carmel

PM: 2Corinthians: Jesus Christ: God's Unspeakable Gift (9)

For the Record (August 5, 2007):

Attendance: 81 Contribution: \$1310.00 Budget: \$1326.00

The Ashland Church of Christ

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Sunday:

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Worship 5:00 PM

Wednesday:

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Shepherds:

Barney King
Carrol Street

spreading the Good News
Ashland Announcer

"GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS..." (MATTHEW 28:19)

200 Pianos

Paul Meacham, Jr.

An elderly man who had led singing for many years in small country congregations went to the big city to visit family. While there, he had the opportunity to lead a group of about 350 in the assembly on Sunday morning. Later that day, as they ate lunch, his nephew asked him what it looked like from the pulpit with all those people out there. He replied, "Son, I saw 200 pianos." The elder song leader went on to explain how disappointing it was to see all those people not singing.

While most members of the Lord's church would still protest the use of a piano (and rightly so), many violate the same law of God by stoically warming a pew with tightly clenched lips while praises of God are being sung. Many members will turn to Ephesians 5:18-19 and Colossians 3:16-17 to show Bible authority for singing. The addition of mechanical instruments in worship to God is then condemned, citing the lack of authority for such. While these things are true and must always be taught "lest we slip," we MUST realize that these same passages COMMAND singing in worship to God. Anyone capable of "making a joyful noise from the heart" and who fails to do so is committing sin and is in violation of God's pattern just like a person who adds a piano.

Brethren, we must understand that ALL of God's commands MUST be obeyed. When we refuse to obey the command to sing because we feel uncomfortable or self-conscious, or any one of a dozen reasons, we place our own pride above the will of God. When one chooses to add the instrument in worship to God he

places his own judgment and will above the will of God. And, BOTH are sin.

I implore you brethren to consider these things and resolve yourself to submit to ALL of God's laws. Until we do, song leaders across our land will continue to see "200 PIANOS" in the assemblies of the Lord's people.

THE TONGUE IS GUILTY WHEN IT...

Eddy Craft

1. ...curses (James 3:10).
2. ...flatters (Psalm 12:3).
3. ...speaks evil (Ephesians 4:31).
4. ...lies (Revelation 21:8).
5. ...speaks deceit (Proverbs 4:24).
6. ...talebears (Leviticus 19:16).
7. ...harshly criticizes (Matthew 5:22).
8. ...whispers (Romans 1:29).
9. ...is backbiting (Romans 1:30).
10. ...is boasting (Romans 1:30).
11. ...is deceitful (Romans 3:13).
12. ...reviles (1Corinthians 6:10).
13. ...talks foolishly (Ephesians 5:4).
14. ...jests (Ephesians 5:4).
15. ...teaches falsely (Titus 1:10,11).
16. ...speaks idle words (Matthew 12:36).
17. ...blasphemes (Colossians 3:8).
18. ...speaks filthy (Colossians 3:8).

The Daily Grind

Tom Moore

Once in a while a big event introduces significant, and obvious, change into our lives. If the change is for the better, we go to bed and give thanks for the growth we've experienced. Yet all of us know that life is not made up of many days like this. On most days, nothing unusual happens - we simply move through the ordinary routine of our all-too-familiar schedule. And after weeks or months of nothing but the daily grind, we tend to grow impatient, feeling that nothing is "happening" in our lives. What should be our attitude toward the ordinary? Do we simply have to endure the commonplace, hoping that sooner or later another "big" day will come along?

Here's the answer: we shouldn't despise the daily grind. That is where the real growth takes place. Our progress on average days may not be as obvious as the progress we make on extraordinary, significant occasions - but the growth is real, and perhaps, over the long haul, is more important. Healthy spiritual growth doesn't come in spurts - it comes through "patience in well-doing" (Romans 2:7).

When we read the account of the early days of the church in Jerusalem, we're intrigued by the stories of martyrdom and the proclamation of the gospel before kings and other great audiences. But although these brethren did accomplish thrilling things on certain days, no finer thing is said about them in the Book of Acts than this simple statement: "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread and the prayers" (Acts 2:42). They continued steadfastly in the daily grind!

We need to pay more attention to the simple doing of our ordinary "duty." Most people, even those of little character, can rise to the occasion when they're in the spotlight. But the question is, what will we do with today - when nothing will happen, when no one will be looking, and when there'll be no particular reason to do our best, except a desire to keep on serving the Almighty? It is days like today that is the true test of our love for God. If we're not faithful in what is "least," what is "much" will not save us. The apostle Paul declared, "And let us not be weary in well-doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not" (Galatians 6:9).