

NEWS AND NOTES

- ◇ Please remember in prayer– Leon Miller, Mike Sadler, Butch Morgan, Rachel Miller, Ned Hicks, Brian James, Kathy Gray, Nadine Fields (Moses' sister), Debbie Montgomery, Jimmy Johnson (member at the Trilacoochee church of Christ), Hal Lewis (Suzette's brother), Karen Stanley (Bonnie's daughter), Forrest Cunningham (Butch Morgan's nephew), and Jerry Jordan (Ken Jordan's brother who has stage 4 throat cancer)
- ◇ Out of town are Neil and Ahrea Miller, Paula Sullivan, The Groenhof family, and Jim Abram.
- ◇ **Group 1 meets tonight.**
- ◇ *Please remember our shut-ins and check up on those not accounted for.*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Last Friday of each month - Teen Bible Study (*Postponed*)
- 2nd Sunday each month - Afternoon Song Practice
- 2nd Monday night each month - Ladies' Bible Class.
- 4th Sunday of each month -Men's Bible Class

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Assignments

Wednesday Night: 1/1/14

Song Leader: Keith Marschall
 Opening Prayer: OPEN
 Invitation: Bucky Day
 Announcements: Larry Wisdom
 Closing Prayer: Jordan Lawson
 Parking Lot: Leon Miller

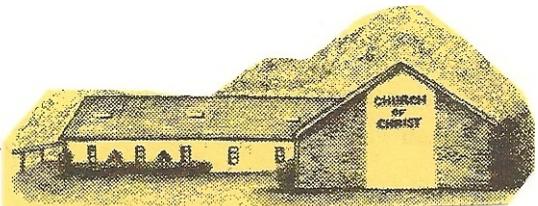
Sunday Morning: 1/5/14

Lord's Table: Bob Marschall (B)
 Keith Marschall (C)
 Serving: Clay Sadler
 Jordan Lawson
 Song Leader: Colby Sadler
 Opening Prayer: David Williams
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Ronnie Henderson
 Parking Lot: (9:00) James VanDoorn
 (9:50) Ed Lawson

Sunday Evening: 1/5/14

Song Leader: Nick Groenhof
 Opening Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Lord's Table: Bob Marschall
 Announcements: Leon Miller
 Closing Prayer: Eric Stevens
 Parking Lot: Mike Sadler

- ◇ ***Please make preparations to have pictures taken on January 5, 2014. (Next Week)***



Lakeland Hills LEADER

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<p><u>ELDERS</u> Larry Hicks (863) 899-7405 Leon Miller (863) 640-6378</p>	<p><u>SERVICES</u> Sunday Bible Study 9:00 A.M. Morning Services 9:50 A.M. Evening Services 6:00 P.M. Wednesday Bible Study 7:30 P.M.</p>	<p><u>DEACONS:</u> Robert Marschall Michael Sadler Eric Stevens Moses Stevens David Williams</p>
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“Being Resolved”

During this time of year many are making resolutions. People will resolve to lose weight, exercise, spend more time with their family, and the list goes on. Unfortunately, many of these resolutions will not get off the ground because so often we do not follow through on the goals we set. That said, we cannot afford to let that happen with regard to our spiritual resolutions. With the spiritual, we must make up our minds to do certain things, and then follow through with them. In this short article we will look at some resolutions made by different people of the Bible and suggest some resolutions we should make as well.

In Joshua chapter 24, we read of Joshua's parting charge to all Israel after they had invaded and conquered the land of Canaan. "Now therefore, fear the Lord, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord! And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in

whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Josh 24:14-15) This is a very familiar passage that we draw applications from, and I actually have it printed and framed within an open area of my home. However, this should be more than just words on paper to us all. *Let us all be resolved to serve the Lord sincerely and genuinely!*

The book of Daniel is set during the period of Babylonian captivity. In Daniel chapter 1, Daniel and his friends were in the king's court and there offered a portion of food that would cause defilement. We are not told exactly what made that food defiling, but *we are* told of Daniel's *resolving* not to eat of it. "But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's delicacies, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the chief of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself." (Dan 1:8) In chapter six of Daniel, we are informed of how there was a written decree signed by King Darius that forbade anyone in petitioning any god or man --except him-- for thirty days. The penalty for one doing so — was for them to be cast into the den of lions. Nevertheless, Daniel was *resolved* to serve God no matter what the cost was... "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went home. And

in his upper room, with his windows open toward Jerusalem, he knelt down on his knees three times that day, and prayed and gave thanks before his God, as was his custom since early days." (Dan 6:10) The example to which we can follow is to note: there will be times in our lives when we are faced with the choice of siding with the world -- or with the Lord. The pressure will be great at times to side with the world. There are also going to be moments for us (like with Daniel) where our parents and/or spiritual brethren are not going to be around to encourage us in doing the right thing. *Let us go ahead and resolve now that whatever situation may arise, we will stand on the Lord's side.*

The book of Ezra gives us much information concerning the period of Bible history in which the Jews returned from captivity. Within the book, we learn of how Ezra led a return of people to the land of Canaan with a concentration on purifying the worship. Ezra was a priest and a scribe of the law, and is described as an "expert in the words of the commandments of the Lord" (Ezra 7:11), but his knowledge of God's law did not come by chance. "On the first day of the first month he began his journey from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him. For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the Law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach statutes and ordinances

in Israel." (Ezra 7:9-10) Ezra had made up his mind to learn the law of God, obey the law of God, and teach the law of God. The application is should be quite clear. *Let us be resolved learn, obey, and teach the law of God as it pertains to us as Christians.*

During His earthly ministry, Jesus would tell a story to the Pharisees and scribes who complained against Him -- that many of us a very familiar with. After describing the love God has for the penitent sinner by way of illustration with "The Parable of the Lost Sheep" and "The Parable of the Lost Coin", Jesus went on to tell the "Parable of the Prodigal Son". Jesus tells of a young man who squandered his property in reckless living, but thankfully he came to his senses and returned to his father seeking forgiveness. Consider the *resolve* of the lost son, "But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.'" (Luke 15:17-19) With this parable, we learn that God is willing to receive with open arms the penitent sinner who returns to Him! It is a *beautiful illustration* that proves "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."(Luke 15:10)

Let us be resolved -like the "Prodigal Son" - that whenever we do wrong, we will go to the Father in humility and confess our wrong, not trying to hide, deny, or explain it away.

*"I am resolved no longer to linger,
Charmed by the worlds delight;
Things that are higher, things that are nobler,
These have allured my sight.*

*I am resolved to go to the Savior,
leaving my sin and strife;
He is the true One, He is the just One,
He hath the words of life.*

*I will hasten to Him,
Hasten so glad and free,
Jesus, greatest, highest,
I will come to Thee."*

-Palmer Hartsough, 1896

(All Bible quotations from the New King James Version,)

- Ian Rice