

### NEWS AND NOTES

- ◇ Please remember in prayer– Megan Rawdon, Louise Mosley, Heather Capuana, Linda James, Christine Golden’s family, Leon Miller, Mike Sadler, Rachel Miller, Ned Hicks, Kelley Beverly (Millers’ son), Brian James, Kathy Gray, Alma Townsley (Angela Wisdom’s aunt) , Nadine Fields (Moses’ sister), Debbie Montgomery, Jimmy Johnson (member at the Trilacoochee church of Christ), Dorothy Wilson (a friend of Marian Church in MI), 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)
- ◇ Charles Rawdon is out of town.
- ◇ **Group 1 meets tonight.**
- ◇ Please remember our shut-ins and check up on those who are absent.

### \*UPCOMING EVENTS\*

- Last Friday of each month - Teen Bible Study (*Postponed*)
- 2nd Sunday each month - Afternoon Song Practice (*Today @ 5pm*)
- 2nd Monday night each month - Ladies’ Bible Class. (*Tomorrow evening*)
- 4th Sunday of each month -Men’s Bible Class

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### Assignments

#### Wednesday Night: 12/11/13

Song Leader: Eddie Lawson  
 Opening Prayer: David Williams  
 Invitation: Jordan Lawson  
 Announcements: Mike Sadler  
 Closing Prayer: Rodger Robinson  
 Parking Lot: Colby Sadler

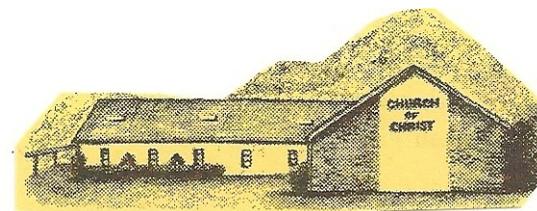
#### Sunday Evening: 12/15/13

Song Leader: Nick Groenhof  
 Opening Prayer: Ben Cunningham  
 Lord’s Table: Bucky Day  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams  
 Parking Lot: David Williams

#### Sunday Morning: 12/15/13

Lord’s Table: Bucky Day (B)  
 Nick Groenhof (C)  
 Serving: Rodger Robinson  
 Ed Lawson  
 Song Leader: Nick Ross  
 Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Sherman Johnson  
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Norm Blackburn  
 (9:50) Ed Lawson

- ◇ **Ladies’ class tomorrow will be at Audrey Davis’ house, beginning at 7pm. (Lesson # 3, “Teachers Cannot do it Alone”)**
- ◇ **Please make preparations to have pictures taken (updated) on January 5, 2014.**



## Lakeland Hills LEADER

### LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

2510 Lakeland Hills Boulevard Lakeland Florida 33805 (863) 688-4336

[www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com](http://www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com)

#### ELDERS

Larry Hicks (863) 899-7405  
 Leon Miller (863) 640-6378

#### SERVICES

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.

#### DEACONS:

Robert Marschall  
 Michael Sadler  
 Eric Stevens  
 Moses Stevens  
 David Williams

#### EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

### *"Whoever Lives and Believes..."*

“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:30-31).

Mission accomplished, at least as far as I’m concerned, because I’ve read “this book,” and I believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. And because I believe that, I believe every other claim Jesus made about Himself—that He is Lord and Savior (John 12:47; 13:14), the bread of life (John 6:35, 48), the light of the world (John 8:12; 9:5), the door (John 10:7, 9), the good shepherd (John 10:11, 14), the resurrection and life (John 11:25), the way, the truth, and the life (John 14:6), and the vine (John 15:1, 5).

But here’s the deal. I know that I can’t be saved by merely believing these things about Jesus, or by simply professing my love for Him. Simply acknowledging that

He is all these things is not sufficient. I know that, because these passages say so: “Many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did, but Jesus did not commit Himself to them...” (John 2:23-25). “As He spoke these words, many believed in Him. Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are my disciples indeed’” (John 8:30-31). “Among the rulers many believed in Him, but because of the Pharisees, they did not confess Him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:42-43).

Faith begins in the mind, but it doesn't end there. If I truly believe that Jesus is all these things, it will be seen in the way I respond to Him—His example, His teaching, and all His wonderful promises. What exactly is that response? Let's stay right here in the Book of John to find out. The passages will speak for themselves.

“If you love Me, keep My commandments...he who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who

loves Me” (John 14:15, 21). “He who feeds on Me (His words—6:63) will live because of Me” (John 6:57). “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed” (John 8:31). “If anyone keeps My word he shall never see death” (John 8:51). “My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me...they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers” (John 10:27, 5). “He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life” (John 12:25). “For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you” (John 13:15). “Love one another, as I have loved you...” (John 13:34). “He who abides in Me, and I in Him, bears much fruit...by this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples” (John 15:5, 8).

So enough of this talk about “belief only salvation.” “Whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die” (John 11:26). Read it again—“lives and believes.” Others may say differently, but that's what Jesus said, and I believe Him.

- Written by Bryan Gibson

### “To Capture Hearts...”

Having spent many years trying to bring men to Christ, and pondering repeated failures, I have drawn a few conclusions from experience. We may have trusted the story of the cross too little, and our teaching ability too much. We have relied heavily upon the assumption that if we could teach men what to do, they would do it. There is something to do all right, but there will be little **doing** (and none that is valid) until the subject is made aware of a need, believes in a remedy, and desires the result of doings. Information may be adequate, but **motivation** may be lacking.

Motive is that within the individual, rather than without, which incites him to action. Peter's sermon on Pentecost made the hearers aware of circumstances which produced self-judgment — we have killed the long-awaited Messiah. What shall we do? Under these conditions the answer can be brief and to the point. There was no need for charts, diagrams, and argumentative sermons on baptism.

This is no indictment of defense and proclamation of doctrinal details. Where such differences exist, and are the deterrent to full obedience, they must be thrashed out. But in many cases if we would expend greater efforts to convince men of their true status before a righteously indignant God, we would not have to press so fruitlessly the details of His will. A man who realizes he is drowning does not argue about the color of the life buoy thrown to him.

We strive for men's **hearts**: casting down man's evil reasonings, his pride, and bringing into captivity his thoughts (2 Cor. 10:4-5) to the obedience of Christ. If we are more interested in winning an argument than in saving a soul, we will certainly fail in the latter, and probably in the former. We are trying to win a man, not **whip him**.

To change the attitude of others, so that they will be open and receptive to the gospel of Christ, we may first have to revise **our** attitude. We must somehow become one with the Lord Jesus, who **loved** and **sacrificed Himself** for mankind; not because we were lovely, but while we were sinners.

-Written by Robert F. Turner