

News & Notes

Afternoon Singing: Our next singing will be next Sunday at the building (Jan. 11th; 5pm).

Ladies' Class: Class will be held next week, on Monday, Jan. 12th, at Karen Berry's home (7pm).

Young Adults' Study: Next study will be at Colby and Kaitlyn Sadler's house on Friday, Jan. 23rd (7:30pm)

Men's Class: Next class will be conducted at the building on Jan. 25th (4:30pm).

Prayer Requests: *Our brethren:* Let us be praying for Larry & Cindy, as Cindy Hick's father passed away last week... Norm Blackburn is doing well, but sister Margaret has still been sick lately and is taking antibiotics to get over her illness. Please also remember to pray for and encourage Martha Smith (Still recovering from her fall) & Kayla Cunningham (Pregnancy).

Our friends and family too: Larry Wisdom's mother (Canera Wisdom; diagnosed with cancer in the advanced stages), Paulette Sills (friend of Butch Morgan who's mother just passed away), Janelle Hastings (Hospice is in home), Naydene Fields, Brian James, Hal Lewis, Gary Jones, DeeAnn Sprott, and Waylon Townsend.

Out of Town: Paul Sullivan has been traveling to visit family, the Wisdom family is in Alabama to visit with Larry's mother, and Larry Hicks will be traveling this afternoon due to work responsibilities.

Group Meeting: Group (3) meets tonight after worship.

Start of a New Year/Quarter! Today is the 1st Lord's Day of 2015, and it is also the 1st day of a new teaching quarter! Let us extend a big "thank you" to those who've been teaching, as well as those who have volunteered to teach (**Phil. 3:29**)! The adult class will be studying The Captivity this quarter, and the other age groups will study the 2nd half of the Divided Kingdom, and the Judah Alone period.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 1/7/15

Song Leader: Eddie Lawson
Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot
Invitation: Colby Sadler
Announcements: Bob Marschall
Closing Prayer: Ronnie Henderson
Parking Lot: Larry Hicks

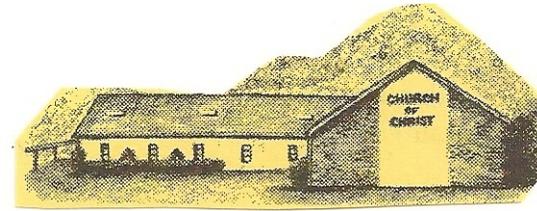
Sunday Evening: 1/11/15

Song Leader: Colby Sadler
Opening Prayer: Nick Groenhof
Lord's Table: Nick Ross
Announcements: Larry Hicks
Closing Prayer: Butch Morgan
Parking Lot: Paul Lloyd

Sunday Morning: 1/11/15

Lord's Table: Nick Ross (B)
 Bucky Day (C)
Serving: Ed Lawson
 Ben Cunningham
Song Leader: Bob Marschall
Opening Prayer: Sherman Johnson

Announcements: Larry Hicks
Closing Prayer: Keith Marschall
Parking Lot: (9:00) Leon Miller
 (9:50) Norm Blackburn



Lakeland Hills Leader

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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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

A Undeclared War

The doctors and other concerned citizens of our country are trying to arouse the public with the fact that child abuse is very brutal and very widespread. Thousands of children are killed or maimed for life by angry parents who do not love them. The details of this war are not reported daily because no one knows the complete story, and the casualties are not lying along the street of some city or camp that was the point of the attack. The dead and wounded are scattered from coast to coast, and almost all of them are kept out of sight.

The victims of this war are unarmed, and they have no bomb shelter where they can hide and be in relative safety. Those destroyed by this insane slaughter are the innocent children of the land, and they suffer generally at the hands of drunk, atheistic parents who have been told since they were children that they are products of blind evolution rather than descendants of parents who were created in the image of a loving heavenly Father who would have all men come to repentance and live by the wonderful wisdom of His counsel. They are without hope and without God in this world (**Eph. 2:12**).

The frustrated parents were never taught to love children (**Titus 2:3-5**). They may have learned to look for pleasure in that which is contrary to nature rather than that which is in fellowship with God and His family. They are to be pitied as well as the unwelcome children that come to live with them. If there were some way to convert these parents to Christ so that His example and teaching could have free course in their lives, the homes would immediately turn toward the "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance" (**Gal. 5:22, 23**). There is no law against these traits, and people who have them would harm no one. Conversion would bring about a change which is beyond description, and this change would enrich the lives of those converted and all whose lives they touch. The children would be loved and protected rather than neglected, starved, and beaten.

"Godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come" (**1 Tim. 4:8**). The unselfish and faithful followers of Christ shall receive now in this time an hundredfold, with persecution, and in the world to come eternal life (**Mark 10:28-20**). The helpless children cannot teach their parents. They

are destined to die early or become the vicious criminals and animal-like people of the next generation. They will learn only hate from their environment.

There are wonderful people who would delight to have these children when they first come into the world, but the children are carried into the "war zone" without their choice and beyond the knowledge and reach of those who would love them. It is amazing how soon such little ones learn rebellion, hate, and ugly attitudes in the dirty homes into which they are born, it is almost impossible to remove the evil scars of such unholy environment-- and treatment that they receive early in life even if the courts find them and make them available to wise and loving couples who desire children. The effort to help them is worthy. The physical scars are less serious than the spiritual scars of these unfortunate abused children.

It is also very difficult to get the cruel, animal-like parents with the gospel which is God's power to change them into saints and heirs of heaven: It is very much in order for the courts to mete out severe punishment to the guilty parents when they learn of their heartless treatment of their own children, and it is proper for the neighbors to report such criminals to the authorities because this may deter

some from such conduct. The ideal is for the gospel to reach them, but they are not listening for the truth, not searching the Scriptures. These murderers of children are products of the atheism and modernism that is taught in textbooks, on television, and even in the pulpits of some of the older denominations.

Neglect of children is often found in more respectable homes. Parents are too busy in their search for money and pleasure to notice the little ones who are so hungry for attention and affection. Children from such homes may become the drug addicts, thieves, and abusers of their children in the next generation. Time spent in teaching and showing affection for children is well used. It pays great dividends.

The feminists who seek to destroy the home, the university professors who scoff at the Bible, modern vulgar entertainers who destroy the sense of moral values, and the modernistic preachers who undermine respect for the Scriptures are the productive engineers who train the soldiers in this cruel army that is engaged in this undeclared war on innocent children. If active precious faith could be instilled in the heart of every American, child abuse would stop at once. Let the truth of God be sent out in all directions to all people with all haste. Some will listen with rever-

ence, and when they do they will glorify God and befriend the innocent. Such is the influence of the Bible. The more abundant life is for the faithful servant of God and not for the servant of the devil. These Christians find happiness and share it with others. The unbelievers who think they are animals are without hope, and they tend to understand only the rule of force.

Those who are guilty of child abuse are the very people who show no respect for the lives and property of adults about them. They are a selfish people with no respect for the law of God or man. Sin grows in clusters, and when one heinous crime comes to the surface it is usually accompanied by, many other evidences of rebellion against the God of heaven.

Let all who have obeyed the gospel realize that their great mission in life is to encourage others to do the same. We need not expect some political party to stop the crime wave. If it is done, it will be accomplished by those who understand and obey the gospel and teach it to others. Let us be as the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

- By Irvin Lee