

### NEWS AND NOTES

- ◇ Please remember in prayer– Heather Capuana, Arlene Turner, Madge Hicks, Patti James’ son (Brian), Debbie Montgomery , Alma Townsley (Angela Wisdom’s aunt) , Jane Ross (Nick & Robin’s Grandmother), Nadine Fields (Moses’ sister), Hugh Sils, and Ted Penland, Joshua Dykes (Butch Morgan’s cousin), and Bob Calkins (A friend of the Millers).
- ◇ Karen Berry, Audrey Davis, and Angela, Rebecca, & Lilah Wisdom are out of town.
- ◇ Please remember also our shut-ins:
- ◇ Group 2 meets tonight.

**\*UPCOMING EVENTS\***

- Last Friday of each month - Teen Bible Study
- 2nd Sunday each month - Afternoon Song Practice
- 2nd Monday night each month - Ladies’ Bible Class. *(On hold throughout summer)*
- 4th Sunday of each month -Men’s Bible Class

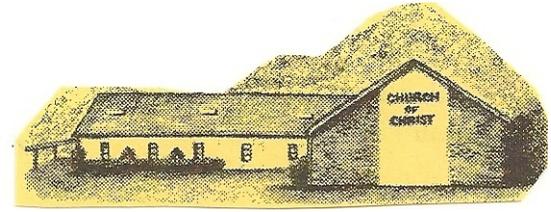


### Assignments

Wednesday Night: 7/3/13  
 Song Leader: Nick Groenhof  
 Opening Prayer: Keith Marschall  
 Invitation: OPEN  
 Announcements: Bob Marschall  
 Closing Prayer: Daniel Staggers  
 Parking Lot: David Williams

Sunday Evening: 7/7/13  
 Song Leader: Ronnie Henderson  
 Opening Prayer: David Williams  
 Lord’s Table: Nick Groenhof  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Sherman Johnson  
 Parking Lot: Leon Miller

Sunday Morning: 7/7/13  
 Lord’s Table: Nick Groenhof (B)  
                   Colby Sadler (C)  
 Serving: Keith Marschall  
            Jim Abram  
 Song Leader: Kirk Marschall  
 Opening Prayer: Leon Miller  
 Announcements: Larry Hicks  
 Closing Prayer: Tyler Rice  
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Norm Blackburn  
               (9:50) Paul Lloyd



## Lakeland Hills LEADER

### LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

2510 Lakeland Hills Boulevard Lakeland Florida 33805 (863) 688-4336  
[www.lakelandhillschurhofchrist.com](http://www.lakelandhillschurhofchrist.com)

<p><b><u>ELDERS</u></b>          Larry Hicks (863) 899-7405          Leon Miller (863) 640-6378</p>	<p><b><u>SERVICES</u></b>          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><b><u>DEACONS:</u></b>          Robert Marschall          Michael Sadler          Eric Stevens          Moses Stevens          David Williams</p>
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### *“Two Men Have an Unfaithful Child”*

Bill and Fred are both faithful in their attendance and active in the work of the local church, but unfortunately both men have a grown child who does not serve the Lord faithfully. The spiritual lives of Bill and Fred seem similar in many ways, but when it comes to dealing with the unfaithful child there is a big difference.

When Bill is asked about his son, he is honest in describing the situation and urges everyone to do all they can to help re-store his son to faithfulness. If anything is said to Fred, he immediately becomes defensive and makes excuses for his son. While Bill wishes people would be more direct in dealing with the soul-threatening sin in his son’s life, Fred continually worries that someone is going to say the wrong thing to his son and “offend” him.

Is this writer describing an actual situation with which he is familiar? The answer is yes and no. The names are fictitious, but they do represent the actions and attitudes of real people he has watched and known over the years. This writer has known his share

of “Bills” who understood the danger their children were in and sought the help of all. But tragically, he has also seen far too many “Fred’s” who were so worried about the feelings of their children that they would make excuses for them, cover up for them, perhaps try to keep people from even find-ing out about them and become resentful toward those who did try to help.

If the passing of years were to see this writer have an unfaithful child, would he be a Bill or a Fred? Would he find himself making excuses that sometimes border on dishonesty or would his concern for the soul of his child cause him, no matter how heartbreaking it was, to refuse to excuse the conduct and instead urge everyone to do those things that needed to be done? In all honesty, that question cannot be answered now and he hopes it never has to be answered, but if that time ever comes there can be no doubt about which answer ought to be given.

When people are overtaken in sin fellow-Christians have an obligation to restore them (Galatians 6:1; James 5:19, 20). As parents, we must make certain that we do not stand in the way of those seek-ing to restore the erring. To carry it even further, are the parents themselves excused from the obligation to “restore such a one”? It has to be truly heart-breaking

and gut-wrenching for a parent to see the church with-draw from one of their children (see 1 Corinthians 5:1-13; 2 Thessa-lonians 3:6-15), but a parent who has the proper faith in God and a true love for his child rejoices that God’s children care enough about God and their child to follow God’s plan. Though painful, they trust that the desired end is that “his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (1 Corinthians 5:5).

Let us love our children; seek to train them when they are young and then remember two things if they should choose not to remain faithful:

- 1) We must love Jesus (and His teachings) even more than our children (Matthew 10:37).
- 2) Our love for our children is a very shallow love if it does not extend to their souls.

Parents, please think carefully about this painful subject. Do not ever allow your love, pride, embarrassment, shame or anything else to stand in the way of that which is needed to bring your child to repentance.

-John R. Gibson

### *“Attitudes Toward the Weak”*

The Messiah's attitude toward the spiritually weak is pictured by Isaiah in the following words: "A bruised reed will he not break, and a dimly burning wick will he not quench" (Isaiah 42:3).

In our zeal for purity and strength in the church, we may be guilty of doing the very thing that our Lord does not want done. We create a mental image of what the ideal church ought to be, and then go about to establish one. Every member is going to attend every service. Every member will be "sound" in his convictions. Worldliness will not be tolerated. This church is not going to have the weaknesses that characterize other churches we know of. This is going to be a strong church, a model church.

A new convert is made, and immediately he is indoctrinated in what this church is, and the contribution he is expected to make to the maintaining of this ideal. Each new-comer is viewed as a potential threat. If he's not going to "line up," we don't want him. Weaker members are handled with a "shape up or ship out" attitude. People soon recognize that there is far more concern for the image of the church as an organization than for them as struggling and

weak children of God. While the Messiah is tenderly and delicately nursing the "bruised reeds" back to health, we may be there crushing them. While He cups His hand around these fluttering, dimly burning flames to protect what fire is left, we may be there quenching them.

We are not suggesting that unrepentant false teachers and immoral members ought to be tolerated. They must be warned, marked, and withdrawn from. Nor are we suggesting that the weak ought to be left alone in their weakness. They must be taught, encouraged, re-proved, rebuked, and exhorted, but with all longsuffering, and with a view toward strengthening them. "Admonish the disorderly, encourage the fainthearted, support the weak, be longsuffering toward all" (1 Thess. 5:14). Ask not what they can do for the church but what the church can do for them.

As long as there is a little life in that "bruised reed," there is hope. Don't crush it! As long as there is a little fire left, it might be fanned to burn more brightly. Don't extinguish it!

-Bill Hall