

NEWS AND NOTES

- ◇ Please remember in prayer– Rudy Mosley, Lynda Johnson, Mike Sadler, Rachel Miller, Addy Anthony, Rachel Miller, Ned Hicks, Brian James, Kathy Gray, Alma Townsley (Angela Wisdom’s aunt) , Nadine Fields (Moses’ sister), Hugh and Paulette Sills, Ted Penland, Joshua Dykes (Butch Morgan’s cousin), Bob Calkins (A friend of the Millers), Dorothy Wilson (a friend of Marian Church in MI), Hal Lewis (Suzette’s brother), Jane Halbert, Ned Hicks, Karen Stanley (Bonnie’s daughter), Melanie Moore, and Tammy Parker.
- ◇ Audrey Davis is out of town.
- ◇ Group 3 meets tonight.
- ◇ Please remember also our shut-ins.

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. **(Resuming October 14th!)**
- 4th Sunday of each month -Men’s Bible Class

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Assignments

Wednesday Night: 10/2/13

Song Leader: Kirk Marshall
 Opening Prayer: David Williams
 Invitation: Keith Marshall
 Announcements: Bob Marshall
 Closing Prayer: Rodger Robinson
 Parking Lot: Paul Lloyd

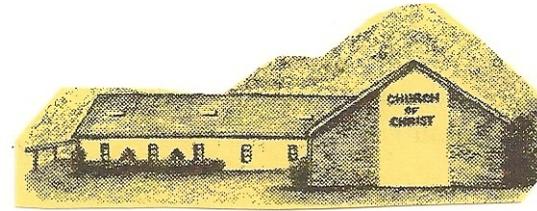
Sunday Morning: 10/6/13

Lord’s Table: Charles Rawdon (B)
 Ben Cunningham (C)
 Serving: Ed Lawson
 Eddie Lawson
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
 Opening Prayer: Nick Groenhof
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: James VanDoorn
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Norm Blackburn
 (9:50) Mike Sadler

Sunday Evening: 10/6/13

Song Leader: Nick Ross
 Opening Prayer: Bucky Day
 Lord’s Table: Charles Rawdon
 Announcements: Larry Wisdom
 Closing Prayer: Daniel Stagers
 Parking Lot: Bucky Day

****Makayla Faulk from Wauchula was baptized into Christ last Sunday evening, September 29th, 2013. Please pray for her continuing faithfulness and follow up with her if you are able!***



Lakeland Hills LEADER

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ELDERS

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 Leon Miller (863) 640-6378

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

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

“Challenges Associated with Teaching the Lost”

Without a doubt, we all face some very stiff challenges in trying to evangelize. Sometimes those challenges can be a very a very big discouragement, as the world of today is just as hostile toward the truth as it was in the 1st century. Remember though, that Jesus and the apostles *often* encountered people who rejected the truth as well. Let us consider some of the challenges we face today and see if we can find guidance from the scriptures so as to help us overcome them.

One of the challenges we face in seeking to evangelize involves overcoming the preconceived ideas of others. We simply do not encounter *very many* people like Apollos in America today. Apollos was an eloquent Jew from Alexandria, but he knew only the baptism of John. What we find in *Acts 18:24-26* is that he was also a man who was humble enough to take correction from Aquila and Priscilla (who were tentmakers). Not only did Apollos take the correction well, but he changed and took what he learned to vigorously defend what the

Jews attacked; that Jesus was the Christ (*Acts 18:27-28*). We do not find *many* people like that today! Many people are unapproachable for a number of reasons. Many have their pre-conceived notions about the “church of Christ”, but Jesus warned that many people would be lost (*Luke 13:23-28*). Can we overcome others’ prejudice in trying to evangelize? Yes! However, it may require some time. Some people have grown very skeptical of religion because of all the nonsense they’ve seen and heard from people who claim to be Christian, but are anything *but* Christ-like. We *are* limited in the time we have left and there should be a sense of urgency in teaching others, but also understand brethren, change for some might not come overnight. It is going to take the right amount of salt and light (*Matt 5:13-16*), and it may also take a lot of patience and sensitivity. Overcoming others’ preconceived notions can be a real stiff challenge, but having the right attitude *and* approach can go a long way in building both trust and respect.

Another challenge that we find ourselves often faced with in talking to

others about the gospel is - a lack of knowledge on the part of those in whom we are speaking to. Today it seems as though there are few who have even a smattering of Bible knowledge. Nevertheless, if there is an interest in learning we can always do as Philip the evangelist did! The Ethiopian eunuch had questions that he wanted answers to (*Acts 8:30, 31, 34*) and so Philip provided him with teaching! Consider also the disciples in Ephesus who had never heard of the Holy Spirit (*Acts 19:2*). Paul seized the opportunity to teach and as a result, “*they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus*” (*Acts 19:5*). The lack of knowledge on the part of others can be overcome through teaching!! Let us seek those opportunities to teach our loved ones, our family members, and friends! The apostle Paul had so much of a genuine concern for everyone that he became all things to all men (*1Cor 9:19-22*). He grieved deeply over the Jews (*Rom 9:1-3*), he had a deep concern for all the churches (*2 Cor 11:28*), and he felt this way even though some showed signs of weakness (*1 Cor 3:1-3, 16-17; Gal 1:6-8*). Can we overcome the problems con-

cerning the lack of knowledge? Yes, but this will require convincing others to study, along with a diligent effort to prepare on our part (*James 1:5; 2 Tim 2:15*). We also must *be driven* by a genuine concern for all men!

Lastly, one of the stiffest challenges associated with evangelism is the fear of (and response to) rejection. We just need to go ahead and prepare ourselves with the understanding that some people are going to reject the gospel (*Matt 10:13-14, 22*). Some will be uninterested; whereas others will do everything they can to oppose the bearers of the good news. Let us be encouraged not to take it too personally though. Do you remember how the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel - expressing their desire to be “*like all the nations*” (*1Samuel 8:4-9*)? Samuel was hurt by their rejecting God, but did not use their attitude as an excuse for complacency. It hurts today when people reject us for telling the truth, so let us seek to ease the pain by finding soft hearts just as Paul and Barnabus did (*Acts 13:45-48; 14:1*). Just when you think that no one is listening, you’ll find that there are others

willing if you keep up the effort! We can also deal with the problems associated with rejection better if we keep the right perspective and be ever thankful in prayer for those who *have* obeyed (*Rom 1:8; 1Cor 1:4; Phil 1:3-5*)! If we will remember the faithful and be thankful for them, we can overcome the sting of rejection!

There are many things that can discourage us from the work we’ve been allowed to do, but we can overcome those challenges if we keep the proper attitude. Let us busy ourselves with preparation and seek for opportunities to teach while being patient with others. May we all have the faith to endure rejection of the gospel - remembering and applying the message the Lord gave to Samuel, “*Heed the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected Me, that I should not reign over them.*” (*1 Sam 8:7*). If we have directed others to specific Bible passages and they refuse the message... then they are rejecting God – not you!