

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Jo Anderson (bronchitis), Joe Brown (*cancer*), Marian Church (*back*), Kelly Cochran, Betty Eubanks (*out of town*), Larry Hicks, Linda James (*on-going medical*), Paul Lloyd, Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Wayne Ryland (*blood pressure irregularity*), Suzette Stevens, and Ken Turner.

Our family and friends: Elnora Bennet (*Moses Stevens' sister*), Mildred Church (*Shut-in*), Diane Fields (*Further testing revealed cancer in her lymph nodes; therefore Keri's mom will need chemotherapy*), Ned Hicks, Brian James (*cancer*), and Ardis Tucker.

Out of Town: Jordan Lawson, the Ross family, and the Marschalls.

Bible Class Review: The next review class for the kids will be July 10th shortly after the evening services, in classroom # 7.

Group Meeting: Group (1) meets tonight after worship.

Gospel Meetings: There is an ongoing series of lessons being presented every Thursday night at the Lutz Church of Christ. There is also a gospel singing on the campus of Florida College, this upcoming Friday evening. Please see the announcement flyers (in the foyer) for details.

Mark your calendar: There will be a work day at the building this upcoming Saturday. All members are encouraged to participate.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 6/22/16

Song Leader: Jeremy Wharton
 Opening Prayer: Nick Ross
 Invitation: Clay Sadler
 Announcements: Ian Rice
 Closing Prayer: Paul Lloyd
 Recordings: Keith Marschall
 Usher: Colby Sadler

Sunday Evening: 6/26/16

Song Leader: Bob Marschall
 Opening Prayer: David Williams
 Lord's Table: Bucky Day
 Announcements: Larry Wisdom
 Closing Prayer: Charles Goodall
 Recordings: Keith Marschall
 Usher: Ben Cunningham

Sunday Morning: 6/26/16

Lord's Table: Bucky Day (B)
 Jerry Williams (C)
 Serving: Jim Abram
 Ed Lawson
 Song Leader: OPEN

Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson
 Announcements: Larry Wisdom
 Closing Prayer: Trent Stevens
 Recordings: Trent Stevens
 Usher: Ben Cunningham



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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

www.lakelandhillschurchofchrist.com

ELDERS

Larry Hicks (863) 899-7405
 Leon Miller (863) 640-6378
 Larry Wisdom (863) 583-4311

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
 Charles Rawdon
 Michael Sadler
 Moses Stevens
 David Williams

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

The Blessings of Forgetting

Are you proud of your memory? Are you anxious to show folk how you can recall the little details of long ago? Not me! Maybe I'm seeking justification for my weak mind, but I find reason to be proud of my forgettery. I believe there are blessings in forgetting -- and my wife says I am of all men most blessed.

The Preacher said to remember the Creator in youth -- before the evil days come -- when the clouds return after the rain. (Eccl.12:1-2) In good days the clouds appear, it rains, and it is all over. But there comes a day when "the clouds return after the rain". Our troubles will not depart. And sometimes they stay because we will not let them depart -- we recall, and relive them, over and over. It is a wise, and happier man, who knows when and how to forget.

Joseph had been ill treated by his brothers -- sold into slavery. He could have dwelt upon this injustice, growing more and more bitter -- and finally have allowed it to wreck his own life and that of his people. But when his first-born, Manasseh, came, Joseph said, "God hath made me forget all my toil, and all my father's house." (Gen. 41:51)

"Forgiving" contains that sort of forgetting. Jesus said, "If ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses". When Peter asked how often he should forgive his brother, Jesus gave the indeterminate number, "Until seventy times seven." (Matt. 6:15 18:22) One has not truly forgiven who buries the hatchet, but sets up a marker so that it may be easily exhumed. The facts of the past may remain, as they did for Paul, but the bitterness, and any desire for vengeance we may have felt, must vanish.

Paul said, ".forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:13-f) No one can build a glorious future by wallowing in a sordid past. God forgives -- and He calls it "remission" (Acts 2:38) or cancellation. "Their sins and iniquities will I remember no more." (Heb. 10:17) God has a good forgettery when such is in order. Do we propose to know more than He about these matters? Oh ye of little faith!!

Many years ago I knew a couple who were deeply hurt by the indiscretion of one. The man, in the wrong, pled for forgiveness -- to no avail. The woman freely acknowledged, "My pride has been wounded -- I can not forget." I fully believe this was a case where a sharp memory was a curse -- and a forgettery would have been a blessing. God has endowed us with the capacity to forget. A hot, dusty, insect-filled, flat-tire,

hard-work fishing trip soon boils down to the fun we had catching that bass -- the hardship part is forgotten. Wouldn't life be more fruitful if we would apply our forgettery to personal bitterness, little "digs" and "slights" that begin with pride, and feed on acid rehearsals? Christ died to give us a way to get rid of sin. Must we live trying to find a way to keep it??

- By Robert F. Turner

Courtesy

Whatever happened to old fashioned courtesy? Oh, it's still around, but it is becoming rarer and rarer, even among those who call themselves the children of God. The English word means, "courtly politeness, graceful and considerate behavior toward others." Refined people are courteous. They have a respect for the rights, privileges and feelings of others. The crude and uneducated are discourteous. I refer not to formal education, but to be educated in ethics and morals; I refer to the education that refines the character and develops love and regard for mankind in general. "Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." No one is fully educated until he learns to be kind in feeling toward others and treats them with respect.

There are three words that are translated from the Greek into the English words courteously, courteous and the like in the King James. 1 Peter 3:8 has "be courteous" and

means to be humble minded. The person who lacks courtesy is self-centered and arrogant. The Christian is to be lowly-minded, to condescend to others (Rom. 12:16), to consider others better than self, not looking to his own things but on the things of others (Phil. 2:3,4). There is no way that we can be discourteous while we are concentrating on serving others.

In Acts 28:7 Paul was entertained "courteously" by the islanders where he was shipwrecked. Other versions use the word hospitality. The Greek word here means to have friendly thoughtfulness. Old fashioned hospitality is the force of it, to be thoughtful and friendly, even toward strangers. "Be not forgetful to entertain strangers; for thereby some have entertained angels unaware" (Heb. 13:2). Use hospitality one to another without grudging (1 Pet. 4:7).

The, third word is used of the treatment that the centurion afforded Paul as a prisoner when he treated Paul courteously, other versions say "kindly" (Acts 27:3). This Greek word is the one from* which we get our English word "philanthropic," which means to have a "love for mankind, devotion to human welfare, good will to all men."

From these three words we get the concept of what the Christian's attitude ought to be toward all men, regardless of their own station in life and regardless of the station of others. Rudeness comes from being self-centered, out of a selfish spirit. Alexander Campbell said, "A selfish person is always impolite, ungentlemanly and unchristian in his manners. This is manifested even in the beggarly elements of indecency, from the

tobacco chewer up to the verist gormandizer (vulgar glutton, MDN), or from him who smokes in your face to him who smites you on the face." To ignore the dignity and rights of others is an outrageous injury.

To whom should we be courteous? To everyone!! Wives and husbands should have the utmost courtesy toward each other. Parents should be courteous to their children; and children to their parents; subjects to rulers; rulers to subjects; brethren to their own brethren; brethren to those who are not their brethren.

How can a courteous saint ignore a visitor in the assembly? How can sisters and brothers not speak to one another (in Christ or in the flesh)? How can saints speak words that hurt to the quick? Even if we disagree in policy or doctrine, we cannot be discourteous and have the spirit of the Master.

How can we develop courteous people? Learn the will of the Lord and do it. Teach it to your children, practice it before them. Show them the need of respect for others. Teach them to rise when a person older than they enters the room. Teach your sons how to treat ladies. Teach them how to speak kindly, to act kindly. Refined people are truly educated people; refined people are truly courteous people. Christians are truly educated people for they have learned from the Master. Christians are always courteous!!!

- By Morris D. Norman