

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Reagan Cunningham, Kelly Cochran, Kurt Dickey, Betty Eubanks, Mary Henderson, Linda James, Rowenna Lawson (she had a scare last week concerning her blood sugar, but all seems to be okay now), Kirk Marschall, Butch Morgan (ongoing medical), Wayne Ryland (blood pressure), the Sadler family (Mike’s grand-father passed away last week), Arlene Turner, and Jeremy Whitehead.

Our friends and family: Jim Abram, Joe Brown (has chosen to forego treatment; will be visiting with us next month), Diane Anderson (Linda’s sister), Elnora Bennet (Moses Stevens’ sister), Mildred Church (shut-in), Alma Townsley (Angela’s aunt is failing in health, and not doing well) and Canera Wisdom (Larry Wisdom’s mother).

Group Meeting: Group (3) meets tonight after worship. We encourage all to participate in this good work.

Out of Town: Audrey Davis, as well as Ken & Diana Jordan, are out of town.

Kids’ Review Class: The next children’s review “class” will be on November 1st (Next Sunday), shortly after the evening service in classroom # 7.

Afternoon Singing: November 8th, in the auditorium, at 5pm.

Ladies’ Bible Class: The next ladies’ Bible study will be November 9th at the Rice’s home. In preparation, please study lesson number X (10), that begins on page # 63 in the book, “Some Do’s and Don’ts for the Christian”. Please see the sign-up sheet, as there are still opportunities available for you to contribute with.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 10/28/15

Song Leader: Ben Cunningham
 Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson
 Invitation: Eric Stevens
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Nick Ross
 Parking Lot: Colby Sadler

Sunday Evening: 11/1/15

Song Leader: Charles Rawdon
 Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot
 Lord’s Table: Clay Sadler
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Butch Morgan
 Parking Lot: David Williams

Sunday Morning: 11/1/15

Lord’s Table: Clay Sadler (B)
 Sherman Johnson (C)
 Serving: Bucky Day
 Trent Stevens
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
 Opening Prayer: Jordan Lawson

Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Nick Ross
 Parking Lot: (9:00) Norm Blackburn
 (9:50) Ed Lawson



**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

“Appreciating our Citizenship”

It is a general truth that those who acquire citizenship by choice have greater appreciation of it than those who have it by birth. That makes sense doesn't it? When you put forth effort to gain something you understand its value more than when you obtain something without even so much effort as making a choice. So it is with God's kingdom.

Under the Old Law citizenship was tied to birth and circumcision. Under the Law of Christ we are "grafted in" (Rom. 11:17). In fact even those who were formerly natural citizens have been made aliens and must become naturalized citizens so that we all must be "grafted in" (Rom. 11:19-24). So it stands to reason that citizens of the spiritual kingdom will (on the whole) have a greater love for their citizenship than did the citizens of the earthly kingdom. But what of those Christians who still seem to take their citizenship for granted? What is the cause of such ingratitude?

We must first consider the idea that perhaps they are not citizens. Citizenship means certain proofs will be in place. There is a foundational knowledge that goes hand in hand with becoming a citizen. Jeremiah prophesies of this and the Hebrew writer repeats that there will be a time when "they shall not teach everyone his fellow citizen, and everyone his brother saying, 'know the Lord,' for they shall all know me..." (Heb. 8:11). So if you need to be told to know the Lord, then perhaps you aren't a citizen. Likewise, if you are unaware of basic truths such as the existence of the Holy Spirit then it will indicate that something is lacking (Acts 19:1-5). But some are citizens and fall back into ignorance forgetting what they once knew (Heb. 5:12).

So when someone actually becomes a citizen and then later fails to appreciate it, it really comes down to forgetting some great truths. They forget in whom they have believed. They did not sign on to become subjects of some imper-

fect monarch or even elected official. They confessed a faith in the Son of God (Matt. 16:16-18) who was and is God (Jn. 1:1) and to whom all authority has been given (Matt. 28:18). They have forgotten what wretched men they were without Christ (7:24) and have stepped away from the wedding feast to return to feasting on vomit (2 Pet. 2:22). They have forgotten that gaining citizenship was the beginning of a commitment, not an isolated event (Phil. 3:12-14). And no doubt they have forgotten a great deal more than that.

I think of some of the things people have done to gain American citizenship, risking life and limb because they are fleeing misery and see something better available. I wonder sometimes if we are half so appreciative of our heavenly citizenships as they are of their earthly ones. Or do we, like our physical predecessors forget the God who delivered us from bondage and into freedom?

- By Stephen Russell

“Let We Who Teach Examine Ourselves”

One of the greatest responsibilities that a man or woman can undertake is the work of teaching God's word, and the teacher who realizes his responsibility will want to continue to improve himself. Let us look at some areas which may need improvement.

We may need physical improvement. By physical, I mean we may be nervous or irritable. If this be the case, we have a definite handicap as a teacher. Our students soon find this out and become uneasy and afraid to ask questions that they would like to ask for fear they will get their "heads snapped off". A nervous teacher who cannot express what he means and is always "playing with something" makes his students nervous, causing them to get their minds off what he is teaching. A teacher who speaks so low that his students have trouble hearing does not do the job of teaching that he could do if he would talk just a little louder.

Some of us who teach may need social improvement. I mean by "social improvement" the ability to get along with others. A person who cannot get along with his fellow-man is never going to be able to do an effective job of teaching. The inability to get along can be a very serious handicap to one who aspires to be a teacher. Many good men in the pulpit have been total failures as preachers because of their inability to get along with people.

Some may need improvement in the spiritual realm. No teacher can be effective in his teaching who does not try to live what he teaches to the very best of his ability. One who does not live what he teaches brings shame and reproach on the cause he is trying to advance. Also, an insufficient knowledge of the word of God will result in a poor job of teaching - all of us can use improvement here.

- By Donald Townsley