

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Joe Brown (*cancer*), Marian Church (*back*), Betty Eubanks (*out of town*), Larry Hicks, Linda James (*on-going medical*), Paul Lloyd, Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Dottie Reynolds, Wayne Ryland (*recovering from hip surgery*), and Ken Turner.

Our family and friends: Elnora Bennet (*Moses Stevens' sister*), Mildred Church (*Shut-in*), Diane Fields (*Keri's mom*), Ned Hicks, Brian James (*cancer*), Denise Jacobs (*Jim Abram's sister*), Margo Morgan (*Butch's wife home from hospital stay*), Ardis Tucker, and Charles Woods (*Ed and Terrell's brother-in-law*).

Out of Town: The Rice family will be traveling this week to Virginia, Colby Kaitlyn, and Macie-Bell will be traveling to Michigan, and Jordan Lawson is still out of town on business.

Bible Class Review: The kid's review class will be *tonight*, shortly after the evening services, in classroom # 7.

Group Meeting: Group (2) meets tonight after worship.

Gospel Meetings: There is an ongoing series of lessons being presented every Thursday night at the Lutz Church of Christ. **Our annual singing** will be **August 26th**.

Please see the announcement flyer (*in the foyer*) for details.

Next Sunday: Ronnie Henderson and Keith Marschall are scheduled to preach next Sunday while Ian is out of town (James 4:15). Let us give thanks for all of our able and willing men, who take the time to prepare sound lessons for the flock. (1 Cor. 14:24)

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 8/10/16

Song Leader: Edie Lawson
 Opening Prayer: Neil Miller
 Invitation: Sherman Johnson
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Trent Stevens
 Recordings: Colby Sadler
 Usher: Bob Marschall

Sunday Evening: 8/14/16

Song Leader: Bob Marschall
 Opening Prayer: Ben Cunningham
 Lord's Table: Charles Rawdon
 Announcements: Larry Wisdom
 Closing Prayer: Jim Elliot
 Recordings: Trent Stevens
 Usher: Mike Sadler

Sunday Morning: 8/14/16

Lord's Table: Charles Rawdon (B)
 Trent Stevens (C)
 Serving: Ed Lawson
 Bucky Day
 Song Leader: Colby Sadler

Opening Prayer: Nick Ross
 Announcements: Larry Wisdom
 Closing Prayer: Neil Miller
 Recordings: Keith Marschall
 Usher: Mike Sadler



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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ELDERS

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 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

What You Can and Can't Do

The other day as I was reading Job 40 I was made to think about the awful scene in Dallas the previous week when five police officers were cut down in cold blood by a sniper. So many people were hurt by the loss of their husbands, fathers, sons, brothers, and friends murdered because of their race while serving others. What a tragedy! In addition, I reflected on how, whether justified or unjustified, a large segment of our population lives in fear of the police. The overwhelming majority of black citizens do not hate those in law enforcement and they deplore any violence against the police, but the fear felt by so many in the black community is real.

There was much to be sad about in our country and after I had the article almost completed, across the sea Nice, France was struck by a horrific tragedy. But what does all this have to do with Job 40? In the earlier chapters of the book, Job had repeatedly questioned the Lord about His failure to properly administer justice. He simply couldn't understand how God could allow the wicked to prosper and the righteous to suffer, so one of the things the Almighty did was to challenge Job to see if he could do any better.

“Would you indeed annul My judgment?

Bind their faces in hidden darkness.

Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?

Then I will also confess to you

Have you an arm like God?

That your own right hand can save you.” Job 40:8-14

Or can you thunder with a voice like His?

Then adorn yourself with majesty and splendor,

And array yourself with glory and beauty.

Disperse the rage of your wrath;

Look on everyone who is proud, and humble him.

Look on everyone who is proud, and bring him low;

Tread down the wicked in their place.

Hide them in the dust together,

While Job was complaining about the way God does things and our desire to fix the world’s problems is not intended as a reflection on the Lord’s sense of justice, it remains true that we are no more suited than Job to pretend our arms are strong enough to fix the inequities of this world or that our voices can thunder with the majesty and power of the Almighty. We must not allow ourselves to spend all our time fretting over problems we are powerless to solve. If I expend my time and energy on things too big to handle, I will not only be wasting time, but I will set myself up for such a high level of frustration that it may affect my faith. I can’t stop racism in this country. I can’t protect all those who put on the uniform to enforce our laws and keep us safe. I could list a lot of other wrongs I can’t right, but you get the point. We must learn to accept the fact that there are wrongs which will never be made right until the Lord returns (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; et al).

No, I can’t fix the world’s problems, but if I step back from this dark picture of the world as a whole, I may see things I can do. Though all that Mary couldn’t do was more than she could do for Jesus as He faced the cross, our Lord praised her and said, **“She has done what she could.** She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial. Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her” (Mark 14:8-9). While I can’t end racism, I might be able to make a difference in a few lives by speaking to people, being nice to those who are different, expanding my circle of friends, etc. When I see someone in law enforcement, is it within my power to take a moment to speak and thank him for his service? While fully aware that this won’t keep someone else from seeking to harm him, at least for a moment he knows he is appreciated. Jesus called us to be lights in this world and I hope to do a better job of speaking to people (including strangers), showing kindnesses, etc. that will at least make one little corner of the world a better place.

You and I can’t fix the world’s problems because they are largely the result of a rejection of God and His word, but if our lights are turned up a little brighter we just might lead others to a greater interest in God and every life led to Jesus and His saving gospel (Romans 1:16) is one less person practicing hatred or violence. That we can’t do it all is no reason not to do what we can.

“You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all *who are* in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16

All quotes taken from the New King James Version, copyright 1994, Thomas Nelson Publishers.

- John R. Gibson