

**Noteworthy**

**Prayer Requests:** Jim Abram (*flu-like symptoms last week*), Jo Anderson (*not been well lately*), Margaret Blackburn, Joe Brown (*cancer; also was sick last week*), Marian Church (*procedure went well this past Thursday*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), Jim & Mary Elliot (*taking care of Jim's ailing sister*), Linda James (*rehab/ in Clearwater*), Neil Miller (*back*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*).

*Family and friends:* Tonya Bryan (*Dottie's Reynold's daughter*), Ned Hicks (*ongoing medical*), Herb Grannemon (*Bucky Day's uncle*), Brian James (*cancer*), Jesse Jordan (*Yvonne Jordan's husband*), Wayne Ryland, Ardis Tucker (*ongoing medical*), and Charles Woods (*Ed and Terrell's brother-in-law; recovery has been great, with no set backs at this point*).

**Group Meeting:** Group 1 will meet tonight after the evening worship service.

**Ladies Bible Class:** Next class will be *tomorrow* at Steph Marschall's (@ 7PM). In preparation, please study lesson IX that begins on page # 143 in the book, "Some Do's and Don'ts for the Christian". (*See the sign-up sheet in the foyer*)

**Kids' Review:** Review class will be tonight, shortly after the evening worship service, in room # 7.

**Gospel Meeting:** We have an upcoming meeting that's scheduled for April 2nd-5th (*begins three weeks from today*); with various speakers presenting lessons from God's word. Please make plans to attend, and also spread the word to others (*invite your family and friends*).

**Assignments for Worship Service**

**Wednesday Night: 3/15/17**

Song Leader: Keith Marschall  
 Opening Prayer: Clay Sadler  
 Invitation: Jeremy Wharton  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Jim Elliot  
 Recordings: Bucky Day  
 Usher: Mike Sadler

**Sunday Evening: 3/19/17**

Song Leader: Larry Wisdom  
 Opening Prayer: Keith Marschall  
 Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Paul Lloyd  
 Recordings: Bob Marschall  
 Usher: Gus Johnson

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**Sunday Morning: 3/19/17**

Lord's Table: Sherman Johnson (B)  
 Trent Stevens (C)  
 Serving: Jim Abram  
 Jordan Lawson  
 Song Leader: Joe Brown

Opening Prayer: Larry Wisdom  
 Announcements: Leon Miller  
 Closing Prayer: Bucky Day  
 Recordings: Bob Marschall  
 Usher: Gus Johnson



**Lakeland Hills  
 Leader**

**LAKELAND HILLS CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**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  
 Michael Sadler  
 Moses Stevens  
 David Williams

**EVANGELIST:**

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

***Rumors: How They Fly!***

Reporting is hard business. It takes a disciplined mind. It's hard to be objective. A good reporter must divorce himself from all his pre-suppositions, prejudices, pre-conceived notions. He has the responsibility to his readers or viewers to report facts as best as he can determine them. He has no business reporting hearsay, opinion, or other part-truths unless he identifies them as such. It takes concentration and a high regard for truth.

Distributing any truth requires the same integrity as that which is necessary for the good journalist. It, too, calls for intense concentration, an unbiased mind, a desire not only to know the truth, but to use it for good whenever and wherever possible. No person has the right to distribute untruth, hearsay, gossip.



The Scriptures assign an attitude for those who would dare speak of things to others publicly. For instance, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" (**1 Pet. 4:11**), addresses the tendencies to report opinions and is God's warning against such. "There is a time to keep silence, and a time to speak" (**Eccles. 3:7**) speaks to the tendency to want to speak more than the occasion calls for, a constant problem for all of us it seems. "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine" (**Titus 2:1**) calls to mind the necessity of adorning the doctrine of Christ with a disposition toward correctness, making sure that you do not speak opinion or promote your own surmisings.

The Scriptures also warns about speaking things to others privately as well. "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt" (**Titus 2:8**) reminds us to make sure that our speech has just the right flavor, that we make sure we do our best to say palatable things in every situation. "A fool is full of words," says the wise man (**Eccles. 10:14**), indicating that you become suspicious when you say too much about a thing. "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" (**Prov. 15:1**) tells us about

how to handle controversial matters and is a passage everyone would do well to commit to memory.

Then there are those private reporters, those who speak in hushed tones and report in secret, those who seemingly take great delight in spreading rumors and other hurtful information. A Gossip is a newsmonger, one who carries about information that is mostly undocumented in nature and unproductive in effect. It is speech which is seldom intended to edify and will usually include such things as idle talk, tattling, rumors. Sadly, most everyone has participated in it at one time or the other. And even more sadly, many have done so with full knowledge of what they were doing.

"Behold how great a matter a little fire kindleth!" (**Jas. 3:5**). It takes only a small amount of kindling to start a huge conflagration and the skilled gossip knows just how to do it. He may just lift an eyebrow or crook his mouth. He may offer some innuendo or half-truth. He may start some rumor in a place where he knows it will spread like wildfire. He may write something without confirming the source or examining all the facts just because the rumor he is reporting fits what he wants to report.

Gossip is ugly. Gossip is sinful. But gossip is effective, too. "Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savor; so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honor" (**Eccles. 10:1**). A man's reputation, which may have taken years to build, can be destroyed by one little, well-placed rumor, just as the ointment which may have taken months to prepare can be destroyed when one little stink-fly lands in the portion. It is a serious thing to report information which is not true or pass along what has never been proven. But people do it all the time. And get away with it.

Two things would help.

Don't repeat anything you don't know for sure. The world of gossip operates on a chain reaction. When the chain is broken, the gossip stops.

Remember you are responsible for what you tell. No matter where you got it, it's still your responsibility. Just don't re-tell and you won't have to worry about it. Make sure it needs to be told before you tell it.

By Dee Bowman

### WHAT MUST I DO TO BE A CHRISTIAN?

- ◇ Jesus taught obedience (Matt. 7:21-23; Luke 6:46; Matt. 28:20)
- ◇ Jesus taught that unless we believe in Him, we will die in our sins (John 10:31-39)
- ◇ He taught repentance (Luke 13:3; 24:46-47)
- ◇ He taught confessing Him before others (Matthew 10:32-33)
- ◇ He taught baptism as a necessity (Mark 16:15-16; Matthew 28:19-20; John 3:5)
- ◇ He teaches faithfulness unto death (Revelation 2:10)