

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Joe Brown (*ongoing medical*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), the Day family (*Robyn's father, Ricky, cancer*), Linda James (*Still recovering from major back surgery*), Yvonne Jordan (*doing much better*), Paul Lloyd (*rehabilitation in Toledo, Ohio*), Cindy Hicks and family (*with recent passing of Cindy's aunt, Lyndell McReedy*), Kirk Marschall (*Encouraging Kirk to faithfulness*), the Marschall family, Linda McKenzie (*recent passing of her mother*), Butch Morgan (*shut in*), Dottie Reynolds (*ongoing medical*), Arlene Turner (*her sister recently passed*).

Family and friends: Marvin Brown (*from Plant City, cancer*), Ruth Fogel (*Jill Boyette's mother, cancer*), Ned Hicks (*Larry Hicks' father, ongoing medical*), Brian James (*cancer*), Rowena Lawson's mother (*Ms. Lourdes, health issues & pain management*), John Marschall (*Bob's father*), Alan Turner (*illness*).

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

Next Week: Jordan Lawson will preach next Sunday night (*Lord willing*), as he will be moving the following week.

Men's Bible Study: The 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (*July 28*).

Area Meetings: The Henderson Blvd. church of Christ is having a summer series of lessons every Thursday night during June 6th-August 1st. Please see bulletin board for details.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 7/10/19

Song Leader: Keith Marschall
 Opening Prayer: David Williams
 Invitation: Steve Parker
 Announcements: Bob Marschall
 Closing Prayer: Earl Branham
 Recordings: Clay Sadler
 Usher: Bob Marschall

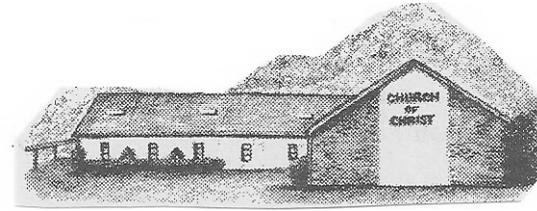
Sunday Evening: 7/14/19

Song Leader: Larry Wisdom
 Opening Prayer: Earl Branham
 Lord's Table: Bob Marschall
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Recordings: Trent Stevens
 Usher: Gus Johnson

Sunday Morning: 7/14/19

Lord's Table: Jordan Lawson (B)
 Logan Lanning (C)
 Serving: Ed Lawson
 David Williams
 Song Leader: Colby Sadler

Opening Prayer: Jim Elliot
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Leon Miller
 Recordings: Bob Marschall
 Usher: Gus Johnson



**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 7:00 P.M.

DEACONS:

Robert Marschall
 Michael Sadler
 Moses Stevens
 David Williams

EVANGELIST:

Ian Rice (863) 213-9795

Press Along to the Goal

She fled from the rising waters of the tsunami. Visions of her family, a husband and five children, flashed through her mind. She had to live—not just for her, for them. As she climbed a tree, she was bitten by a snake. Then came the fire ants. They stung her legs, arms, face, even her eyes. Still, she climbed. This woman had one goal, survival; it was her only option. The reunion with her family would be worth it.

Setting goals is a part of life. Achieving them, however, is not quite as common. And many times, the difference between setting marks and reaching them is the reward that waits at the end. When two teams battle and fight their way through a close championship game, what do we usually say about the one that finally finishes on top? “They were just hungrier; they wanted it more.” At the beginning of the season, they didn’t just set their minds on winning. Their goal was to win it all. They knew that the reward at the end would be worth it.

The apostle Paul likened Christianity to running a race when he said, “I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus” (**Phil. 3:14**). That suggests some things about the determination and vision necessary as we make our journey to our own reward.

You have to press on. This race is not a sprint or a dash but a marathon, one that must be “run with endurance” (**Heb. 12:1**). It is filled with obstacles, detours, and difficult turns, things that the devil will use to discourage you from running. Many passages warn about falling prey to our great adversary, hence falling out of the race (**1 Pet. 5:8; Eph. 6:11; 2 Cor. 11:14**)? He wants you to fail. You have to press on.

And when the struggles are internal, from within, you have to get through those, too. There will be times when you feel like you can’t take another step. There will be times when you see people you love stop running. There will be times when you lose your focus and trip and fall. “And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner” (**1 Pet. 4:18**)? That indicates that you have to work through conflicts and strife and treacherous roads along the way. Through all the pressures, you have to press on.

You have to press on toward the goal. The goal is the finish line. It’s the reason you start running in the first place. No runner begins a race that he doesn’t intend to complete. When Paul was at the end of his life, he said with confidence, “I have finished the course” (**2 Tim. 4:7**). That is, he had plenty of opportunities to quit but he wasn’t about to stop running or even slow down until he felt the tape break across his chest at the finish.

You’re not finished yet. You still have a race to complete. Otherwise, it doesn’t matter how a man lives or what a man does after he is saved, just so long as he was once saved. But the Bible makes it clear that we must keep pressing on

toward completion. The writer of Hebrews said that we become partakers of Christ, “if we hold fast the beginning of our assurance firm until the end” (**Heb. 3:14**). Peter encouraged Christians to stay strong, “obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls” (**1 Pet. 1:10**). It’s the outcome, the end, the result, the goal. Keep pressing toward it.

You have to press on for the prize. The athletes in the First Century competed for a prize, a wreath of victory. And no one received an award just because they entered the race or ran for a little while. They had to finish to get it. And however difficult it was to pull the next hill or work through the pain, their minds were firmly fixed on the reward that was waiting at the end of the road.

The stakes are much higher in the race that is set before us. “They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable” (**1 Cor. 9:25**). We press on for the crown of life, the prize of eternal fellowship with God. That was certainly Paul’s motivation for fighting the good fight, for finishing the course, for keeping the faith. “In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day” (**2 Tim. 4:8**). Notice that he had not yet received his reward. That was the very reason he kept pressing on. Heaven will surely be worth it all. Just remember, you’re not there yet.

“To reach the port of heaven, we must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it—but we must sail, and not drift, nor lie at anchor” (Oliver Wendell Holmes). Surviving a natural disaster and winning a national championship both involve courage,

resolve, strength, and inspiration. But they are not worthy to be compared with the reward of a race run well. Set your sights on the city and press on, not off.

~ Bubba Garner

Welcome, Stranger!

It seems simple enough to walk up to someone and say, Hello, my name is John Doe, and I want to welcome you to our meeting. But it must have some dreadful effect on brethren, if the few who try it is any indication.

I know many of the regular excuses given. They rush out and are gone before we can get to them. Right! Now that we know they do this, we can postpone our visits with friends and relatives, and hurry out to foyer and parking lots to intercept them. We are the ones who go the second mile — remember? We do not wear our feelings on our sleeves, but show them what Christianity has done for us.

I dislike hypocritical back-slapping and glad-hand tactics. Yes, so do I. Hypocrisy has no place in the conduct of saints, so leave it out. Our greetings should be warm and sincere. Or, could we mean we are not happy to see the visitor at the meeting? If this is the case there is need for a completely new attitude. I sometimes suspect that our lack of concern for others is dire to our own failure to understand and appreciate the blessings in Christ. Every true Christian must surely be happy and anxious for others to hear the news.

Most of our visitors are members of the church, and as much obligated to come to me as I to them. I even heard of one brother who argued

that agape love does not necessitate affection. Here is legality gone to seed. The sacrificial selfless nature of agape is far deeper and more meaningful than mere affection, or love of the lovely. But affection. It is the very thing that would make us out—going and eager to cultivate relations we might otherwise ignore. In Rom. 12:9-10 we read Let love (agape be unassumed . . . In brotherly love to one another loving warmly. (Philos and phileo in last uses: Marshall.)

We are people; we work with people in our efforts to save souls. There is no perversion of the purpose and work of the church necessitated by our being friendly and courteous to all people everywhere. Particularly should we cultivate this attitude toward saints and non-saints who visit our places of assembly.

As a traveling evangelist I often see rank disregard for this simple courtesy during a meeting. I have met strangers, taken them to local member and introduced them, and soon after leaving them to find others, note that the member has said a perfunctory Hello and then abandoned the visitor. Many brethren seem to have no feeling of obligation to make the stranger feel at home, obtain his name and address for future use, or even show the courtesy we would display in the business world

Perhaps some qualified member should be appointed to make such contacts, and go to the exits early for that purpose. But if we wish to avoid mechanical greeters — if we would develop a genuinely warm church — all members need to cultivate this grace. Your friendly handshake genuine welcome, and personal concern may be the only things, at this point that can prepare a stranger to hear Christ

~ Robert F. Turner