

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Joe Brown (*ongoing medical*), Mildred Church (*shut in*), the Day family (*Robyn's father; Ricky, cancer*), Linda James (*Recovering from back surgery*), Paul Lloyd (*rehabilitation in Toledo, Ohio*), Neil Miller (*medical*), Keith & Becca Marschall (*Expecting their first baby*), Butch Morgan (*At Lakeland Nursing and Rehab on Lakeland Hills Blvd., Rm. 105b*), Dottie Reynolds (*ongoing medical*), Suzette Stevens (*health struggles*), Arlene Turner (*recent health struggles*), Louise Wilkerson (*New convert; baptized Aug. 7th*), Lilah Wisdom (*illness*).

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*), and John Marschall (*Bob's father*).

Out of Town: Jimmy & Diane Fields, Larry & Cindy Hicks, Colby & Kaitlyn & Children.

Group Meeting: Group 2 will meet next week after the PM worship service.

Men's Bible Study: The 4th Sunday of each month at 5 pm (*August 25th*).

Kids' Review: The next review class will be Aug. 25th shortly after the PM assembly.

Area Meetings: Our annual singing will be *this month*, August 30th at 7:30pm. Please make plans to attend and invite others.

Remember and encourage others who are struggling physically and spiritually.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 8/14/19

Song Leader: Trent Stevens
 Opening Prayer: Ian Rice
 Invitation: Colby Sadler
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Bucky Day
 Recordings: Clay Sadler
 Usher: Larry Hicks

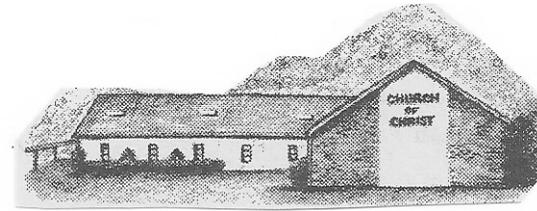
Sunday Evening: 8/18/19

Song Leader: Clay Sadler
 Opening Prayer: Ronnie Henderson
 Lord's Table: Keith Marschall
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Jerry Williams
 Recordings: Bob Marschall
 Usher: Gus Johnson

Sunday Morning: 8/18/19

Lord's Table: Keith Marschall (B)
 Jerry Williams (C)
 Serving: David Williams
 Timothy Payne
 Song Leader: Ryan Boyette

Opening Prayer: Jeff Lanning
 Announcements: Mike Sadler
 Closing Prayer: Jimmy Fields
 Recordings: Bob Marschall
 Usher: Gus Johnson



**Lakeland Hills
 Leader**

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ELDERS

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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

“Do Demons Possess People Today?”

Many believe that evil spirits, called demons, can take over people's bodies today. This was widely accepted in Europe hundreds of years ago. It is still believed by many in Africa in areas where the influence of Christianity is not strong. It is also a growing belief in America. A study revealed that about one third of all Americans believe that demons can take over the bodies of people. Is it true? Should we fear demon possession today? What does the Bible teach?

The Bible clearly teaches that evil spirits exist (James 2:19). They are called “devils” in the King James Version and “demons” in other translations of the Bible. These devils or demons must not be confused with the Devil, Satan, the Tempter (Matthew 4:1-3,10). There is only one Devil, but there are many demons.

In the Bible, we learn that demons entered into people and controlled them (Matthew 8:28-34). They were under the power of Satan (Beelzebub), the chief of all evil spirits (Matthew 12:24). They often caused sickness in the people they entered such as not being able to speak or see (Matthew 12:22); insanity or madness (Luke 8:26-36); personal

injuries (Mark 9:18); and other bodily infirmities (Luke 13:11-17).

These demons also knew who Jesus was. They knew why He had come into the world (Luke 4:41). They believe in God (James 2:19). They fear the Judgment and eternal punishment (Matthew 8:29). This clearly shows that demons are not diseases as some have suggested. They are spirit beings who think, speak, and act. Jesus often cast demons out of people (Matthew 8:16). He also gave the ability to cast out demons to His apostles (Luke 10:17; Mark 16:17,18; Acts 5:16; 8:7; 16:16-18; 19:12). The apostles were able to give miraculous gifts to others by laying their hands on them (Acts 6:6-8; 8:14-21; 19:1-6). This included the power to cast out demons (Acts 8:5-8).

An account of Jesus' casting out a demon is found in Mark 5:1-20. When Jesus came to the country of the Gadarenes, a man met him. He had an "unclean spirit" (demon). This demon possessed man lived in the tombs. He wore no clothes. He was not in his right mind. He cried day and night and cut himself with stones. He also had great strength. When others had bound him with chains, he broke them and escaped. The evil spirit in the man knew who Jesus was and begged Him not to torment him. Jesus asked the evil spirit, "What is your name?" He re-

plied, "My name is Legion; for we are many." When Jesus commanded the demons to come out of the man, they begged him to send them into pigs who were feeding nearby. Jesus did so. The pigs ran to the cliff, fell into the sea, and drowned. When the people of the area came to Jesus, they saw this man "sitting, clothed, and in his right mind." When the demon was cast out, the man was restored to health of body and mind.

Do demons still possess people even today? Zechariah, an Old Testament prophet, spoke of the time when Christ would come. He said: "In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness" (Zechariah 13:1). This fountain was opened when Jesus shed His blood on the cross for the sins of the world. Zechariah then said: "It shall be in that day, says the Lord of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols from the land, and they shall be no longer remembered. "I will also cause the prophets and the unclean spirits to depart from the land" (13:2). Following the time when the Lord would die for our sins, prophets (men who spoke by the Holy Spirit) and unclean spirits (demons) would no longer be in the land (earth). When did this happen?

We have learned that the apostles could give to others the ability to work miracles.

The purpose of these miracles was to confirm (prove) God's Word (Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:2-4). Paul said these gifts of the Holy Spirit would fail, cease, and vanish away (1 Corinthians 13:8-10). These miraculous gifts would cease when that which is perfect has come (v.10). This refers to the New Testament, which is called the perfect law of liberty (James 1:25). One of these gifts was the power to cast out demons. Therefore, evil spirits possessing men, along with the power to cast them out, ceased when the New Testament was completed and confirmed. If demon possession continued today, Satan would have more power than God, for he could send his demons into people, but God's people could not cast them out.

God permitted demons to possess certain people in the time of Christ and the apostles so that His power could be seen. Not only did Christ have power over nature, disease, and death, but He also had power over the spirit world. The Devil and his demons were proved to be powerless before the Son of God (Colossians 2:15; 1 John 3:8). Demons still exist, but they do not possess people today. Today, we need to be concerned about Satan, the Devil, who tempts us to sin (James 1:14; Matthew 4:3; 1 Peter 5:8).

~ Rod Rutherford

"Someone is Always Watching"

It is not uncommon for children to look up to those who are older or wiser than they are. For this reason, little brothers and sisters will never cease to imitate their older siblings. These scenarios, however, are not exclusive to older and younger siblings or even younger or older people. The truth of the matter is that just as you and I look up to certain individuals, there are some looking to us for guidance and example.

If young people and new Christians do not have strong examples to follow as they test their wings, the chances of them growing into strong Christians decrease. It is our responsibility as Christians to help one another grow, and we can do a great deal by simply setting a good example. Many Christians do not feel confident enough to talk to someone about the Bible and, because of this, feel like they aren't doing what they should. If you are living in a way that is pleasing to God, you are reaching people. Though you may not always realize it, there is someone learning from you. If you are behaving in a way a Christian should, then those around you are getting a good message. If you are not living as you should, then those lessons, too, are being learned by those around you. We can be a great help to those who imitate us if we will do as Paul suggested to the Ephesians and "be imitators of God as dear children" (Eph. 5:1).

~ Joshua Ellis