

Noteworthy

Prayer Requests: Joe Brown (*ongoing medical*), Linda James (*ongoing medical*), Sylvester Johnson (*upcoming treatments & bone marrow transplant*), Leon Miller (*effects & complications caused by brain tumor & treatments*), Neil & Ahreah Miller (*He with his blindness and she with her broken leg & rehabilitation*), Butch Morgan (*ongoing medical*), Steve Parker (*recovering from heart surgery and fall*), Moses and Mary Stevens (*with their health*).

Family and friends: Jim Beckley (*Tabitha Sadler's grandfather continues to recuperate from surgery*), Vivian Dillman, Ned Hicks, Brian James (*cancer*), John Marschall (*Bob Marschall's father*), Kirk Marschall (*doing well with long-term rehab*), Ricky Ross (*Robyn Day's father*) and Dorothy Trice (*Carla Moore's mother*).

Worship Services: All services except Sunday morning worship (*Sunday morning Bible study, Men's Bible class, Sunday evening worship and Wednesday Bible study*) are canceled until we see how things progress with the corona virus.

Ladies' Bible Class: Tentatively scheduled for April 13th. Please study lesson number 8 on page 43, "Trouble Over Divorce" in the book "Troubled Over Many Things," by Connie Adams.

Area Meeting(s): Our meeting with Derek Long (*scheduled for Apr. 5-8*) will likely be postponed until further notice.

Remember and encourage those who are struggling physically and spiritually.

Assignments for Worship Service

Wednesday Night: 3/25/20

Song Leader: **Service Cancelled**
 Opening Prayer:
 Invitation:
 Announcements:
 Closing Prayer:
 Recordings:
 Usher:

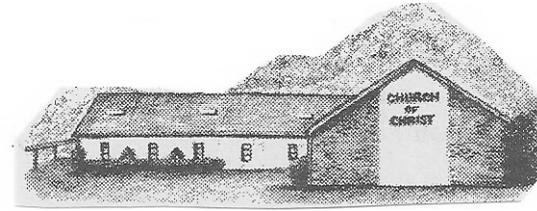
Sunday Evening: 3/29/20

Lord's Table: **TBA**
 Song Leader:
 Opening Prayer:
 Announcements:
 Closing Prayer:
 Recordings:
 Usher:

Sunday Morning: 3/29/20

Lord's Table: Jimmy Fields (B)
 Jerry Williams (C)
 Serving: Ed Lawson
 David Williams
 Song Leader: Larry Wisdom

Opening Prayer: Ryan Boyette
 Announcements: Larry Hicks
 Closing Prayer: Donald Meeker
 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

"The Influence of Television"

Aside from sliced bread and the printing press, no invention has had greater impact on mankind than "an electronic system of transmitting transient images of fixed or moving objects together with sound over a wire or through space by apparatus that converts light and sound into electrical waves and reconverts them into visible light rays and audible sound" called: Television. (I never knew they had a definition for television) The blue glow of television sets all over the country radiant from 99% of every home. There are some strong willed individuals who have refuse to brave the world of instant pictures and sound and remain the 1% of intelligent mankind that does not possess these beasts.

Imagine for a moment if you were in a position to be paid \$77,000 a second. That would come to roughly \$277 million dollars an hour. While that is a little more than what I make, it staggers the mind! It is even more unbelievable to imagine that someone would invest \$277 million dollars an hour for anything unless it was worth the money spent. On the 28th day of January 2001, a number of very intelligent people paid \$2.3 million dollars to advertise their products during the XXXV Super Bowl - and were only given 30 seconds. This \$2.3 million dollars does not count their production costs or other moneys spent to create the commercial. The \$2.3 million dollars was to advertise during the Super Bowl.

Are these people mad or out of their minds to spend that kind of money to receive 30 seconds of publicity? No - they are quite sane in their approach. This is the only time during the year that you have truth in advertising. Not the truth about the product but the truth about the FACT that television influences our lives. The people involved in these commercials know that television has a strange hold on our minds, our hearts, our desires and our pocketbooks (or wallets). All during the year, critics will charge that television does not influence our children to hate, kill, maim, engage in sexual immorality or such things and yet they pay \$2.3 million to advertise their products.

Television impacts the lives of every person that watches it. It changes our moral values and degrades the character that is based upon holiness and purity. It steals our time that used to be spent in rocking chairs on the front porch talking with one another and enjoying one another in conversation that lasted hours. Dinners are eaten in front of it to the destruction of the family unit. Language that would not be permitted by anyone coming into our home is shrugged off from the tube as of little consequence. We now have 150 - 300 channels to watch with every imaginable topic being covered. Television has become the family altar.

Lying dormant is the mind refreshed from a loving family spending time together. Books gather dust as the desire to read is diminished. The influence of television dominates every part of our lives. Such domination takes away the mind of Christ. "If then you were raised

with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth." (Colossians 3:1,2) Television has defeated this mind to live in the mind of the world. Satan has blinded the minds of God's children with the power and influence of television.

Consider the influence of Sodom and Gomorrah upon Lot. (Genesis 19) Did he suffer because of the influences he allowed in his family? Will there come a day when we must be rid of that which may destroy our families, our lives and our souls? (Matthew 5:29,30) The companies that spend \$2.3 million for 30 seconds of air time believe that television changes lives. For the price of reading this article, do you believe television changes your life? Mark 8:34-37.

~ Kent Heaton Sr.

“Take Your Spiritual Threats Seriously”

I am thankful that our government and health professionals are taking the threat of this coronavirus pandemic seriously. My daughter, Emma, caught the H1N1 (commonly referred to as the swine flu) in 2009. She suffered a febrile seizure, had to be resuscitated (after she stopped breathing) and spent the following eleven days in a children's hospital! Therefore, taking precautions with this current virus (COVID-19) is not something to consider lightly.

Protective measures have included numerous instructions such as limiting large gatherings of people, etc. With these methods in place, the general public has reacted in various ways to the threat of contracting this virus. Some people have taken the suggestions seriously and are putting the techniques to practice. Others have thrown caution to the wind and continue with activities as though they are immune. Then there are those who have gone into full panic mode, already buying out store supplies of hand sanitizer and toilet paper (?). By the way, have you been to any stores, lately? It's crazy.

For those interested in the spiritual perspective, many good articles have been written on how we can approach the growing concern within our community. We can pray for our leaders to allow us free course to worship. We might pray about the Lord sparing our brethren, and our community at large, from an outbreak. We also should be mindful of putting our faith in the One who will see us through any circumstance, including death... And therefore, not become overly anxious about this pandemic. But, we might think about the prudent things we should be doing concerning our spiritual health through this time, also.

You see, while so many people think it reasonable to practice "social distancing" and more handwashing... Are folks giving thought, at all, to the cure that God provides to their very own spiritual sickness? Allow me to put it this way: If you tested positive for the coronavirus today, what would you do? Would you follow the doctor's orders and render obedi-

ence to being quarantined? Would you allow for medical professionals to minister to your health? Would you stay in bed and receive all necessary medications, etc.? You will if you want to live! So then, why would anyone continue to put off obeying the gospel (Rom. 3:23; 6:23; 2 Thess. 1:7-9)? Or, why would any Christian continue being dishonest, slothful or lukewarm (Rev. 2-3)? God has spoken on such matters, hasn't He? There has been an outbreak of sin that has cursed the whole world, and people are dying every day. Let's be sure that we examine ourselves. Moreover, take the Lord's spiritual diagnosis and prescription for dealing with sin, seriously!

Back in 2009, my wife took the threat of the H1N1 virus very seriously. I did not. Even when my two-year-old daughter tested positive for the virus, I still did not think it to be "too big of a deal." But on the way to the local pharmacy to fulfill her prescriptions, Emma sat in her car seat just where I could keep an eye on her while I was driving. As her eyes rolled back, her body went limp, her little face turned a shade of blue, her tiny left foot twitched and she ceased breathing for what seemed like an eternity... That's when Keri and I BOTH panicked. I'm so grateful to God that we happened to be two blocks from the hospital and that Emma received immediate care. God provided in her time of need. Perhaps you've got some similar experience(s)? Take your SPIRITUAL threats seriously.

~ Ian Rice