

From the preacher's heart...

Things are really going well at Carthage, and there is a spirit and attitude of excitement about us! Several weeks ago, we were delighted to have Roy Johnson with us from Lads to Leaders, and he gave three wonderful lessons on the last Sunday in June. Moreover, he provided a compelling case for our young people—I feel confident that we will be hearing more from our elders and deacons in the near future.

We recently also had a very enjoyable T-N-T at the home of Justin & Sarah Mauldin. There were about twenty (20) in attendance, and we really appreciated the hospitality furnished by the Mauldin's, as well as the fellowship that they afforded us. Please be listening to the announcements about when the next one will occur and make your plans—these events are for the entire congregation!

Several of you are good at supporting congregational area events, and for that, we are grateful. A few of us attended recently the Friday Night Area-Wide Singing at Bethlehem in Baxter, and several have been able to attend Montrose's VBS this week (speaking of this, we are proud of our very own Chris Hicks, who spoke for them on Sunday night). I have no doubt that other events have taken place wherein the family of God here at Carthage could support one another (cf. Galatians 6:10). Let's keep it up!

Next week is JSCYC, a huge highlight of the year for us. So many of our members are an integral part of this annual camp. Please be keeping this week of camp in your prayers. Please pray for the directors, counselors and all the staff, as well as for the campers. Please pray for their safety this week, as well as for the children to have receptive ears to the word of God that will be taught them each day. Truly, may God be glorified through the efforts expended this next week.

I wanted to give a shout-out to some very special and talented young people who recently participated in theater camp and put on a wonderful play—our very own Ainsley Hassler, John Dallas Hassler, Makenna Hassler, Maizy Rutherford, Emmy Vincent, and Harper Whitaker. We are so very proud of all our young people!

Finally, Melissa and I are leaving tomorrow for about ten days in Texas to attend our oldest son's graduation from SWSBS (Southwest School of Biblical Studies), as well as his forthcoming wedding next week (we are gaining our first daughter-in-law!). Lord willing, we will be back with you Sunday, July 21.

I love you, and may God bless you.

--Sam Willcut

NEWS & NOTES:

SICK: Dimple Hicks is currently at St. Thomas West, room 453 in Nashville. She was sent Tuesday for an arteriogram and to get a plan of treatment. Tony Hackett is still recovering from a back injury he got at work last week and was recently diagnosed with Lyme Disease. Continue to keep him and Mary Jo in your prayers.

SYMPATHY: Our sympathy is extended to the family of Ida Partlow, grandmother to Jonathan Partlow. She passed away in Portland, OR this past Saturday.

CONGREGATION ACTIVITIES: David & Tina Stout would like to invite everyone to celebrate Christina's 5th birthday on July 23 at 6:00 PM here in the church's annex. Food and cake will be provided. **Congregational Outing** to watch the Nashville Sounds baseball team will be Saturday, July 27. A sign-up sheet is in the foyer.

Continue to pray for the following: Barbara Silcox; Barbara Jenkins; Brenda Copeland; Robert Johnson; Faye Maberry; Lola & Bobby King; Jimmy Fisher; Josie Powell; Helen Davis; James Spivey (Faye Maberry's brother-in-law); Jerry Martin (cancer); Sherrie Lawrence; Kevin Howell (cancer – taking chemo & radiation treatments); Tucker Brown; Michelle Allen; Eva Louise Holt; Mary Ann Herd; Scott, Jennifer, and Stephen Johnson; Brenda Boyd; Linda Myers; Mikel and Janice Hicks; Cynthia Gibbs; Josephine Fitts; Brenda Fitts; Buckie Parsons; Chuck Jordan; Jerry & Mary Phillips; Hudson Anderson; Annika Oldham; Hannah McDowell; Tom & Sherry Culver; Sharon Halliburton; Colton Ferrell; Janice Wilson; Drew Gallagher; Scott Bane; Brenda Aikens; Janet Rose; Ruby Anderson; Joe Armistead; Todd Smith; John Jones; Brenda Forrest; and Bea Davis. **Please let Kristi know if there is anyone that needs to be added or removed from this list.**

NURSING HOME/ ASSISTED LIVING/ SHUT-INS: Ricky Branham (SCHR); Lonetta Bains (Pavilion – Lebanon); Pat Paysinger (Shut-in).

THE MILITARY: Korrey King – USMC (Grandson of Bobby & Lola King); Jana Watson, Ann Carter's granddaughter (Army); Benjamin Gentry (USMC).

“Be still and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.” Psalm 46:10

AREA EVENTS: *Girls' Day* July 20th at the Findlay church of Christ in Sparta. **VBS** at Holladay church of Christ in Cookeville, Saturday, July 13 from 10 AM – 3 PM. Lunch provided.

EVENTS CALENDAR: **SCHR Devo:** First Sundays of Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. **JSCYC** July 14-19. **Annual Singing** will be held here at Carthage on August 2. Meal at 5:30; Singing at 7:00 PM. **Bible Bowl** September 7 TTU. **Gospel Meeting** with Charles Williams will be October 27-30.

JULY BIRTHDAYS: Alex Hackett (1); Mike Piper (3); Ethan Denton (9); Kenneth Kidd (14); Luke Linder, Sophie Linder (22); Christina Stout (23); Ken Bennett (26); Ann Carter (31).

JULY ANNIVERSARIES: Larry & Jan Silcox (7/2/1983); Steve & Tammy Harper (7/7/1978); Dusty & Mia Whitaker (7/8/2006); RW & Gail Vincent (7/21/1967); Jimmy & Bridget Austin (7/22/2005).

WHEN NO ONE CARES...

“...as you have always obeyed, not in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.” (Phil. 2:12)

The apostle Paul commended these good people because they were just as faithful in their obedience to God when he was gone from them as when he was with them. It isn't always this way. We have the Sunday Christians who wouldn't be recognized as such on weekdays. There is nothing finer than to be consistent in our actions and attitudes. It is unfortunate when Christian parents can't be the same at home as on the job, or at church services.

A flower does not bloom more beautifully because there are many who are watching with appreciation. They would be just as lovely in a deserted place with no eyes to admire them. The stars shine down with as much wonder and mystery in the untraveled desert as in the crowded cities. We are still who we are... wherever we are.

To wear the name “Christian” is an honor...and a responsibility.

**A.W. Chism
Texarkana, TX**

“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with a willing spirit.” Psalm 51:10-12



ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

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Michael Hackett (615-735-7046)
R.W. Vincent (615-735-0361)

Deacons: P.O. Box 88
Carthage, TN 37030
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Johnny Law (615-735-7176)
Steve Harper (615-735-2651)

Josh Brown (931-319-9994)
Brian Denton
Tony Hackett

Jeremy Hassler (931-335-1884)
Chris Hicks

Jerry Hicks (615-418-6637)

Justin Mauldin (931-319-6548)
Andy Rutherford (615-418-5050)
Dusty Whitaker

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Pulpit Minister: **Sunday Worship**
Sam Willcut 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M. (615-489-3211)
Chris Hicks (615-418-6472)

Bible Study Jerry Hicks
Youth Minister: Sunday Morning 10:15 A.M. (615-418-6637)
Justin Mauldin Wednesday Evening 7:00 P.M. (931-319-6548)

Secretary:
Kristi Hassler (615-489-5144) (615-709-1086)

Email: carthagecoc@dtccom.net
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“VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME”

“I HAVE FINISHED THE WORK...”

John 17:4

God gave Jesus the mission of going into the world to work—that is, His work of redeeming humanity (cf. Jn 3:16). As Jesus neared His final hours on earth, He proclaimed that He has finished the work that God gave Him to do: “I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do” (Jn 17:4). What is this work that Jesus finished? To what does this refer?

The work of God involved the planning, revealing and purpose of how man could be redeemed from sin (Eph. 1:10-11). Jesus became the instrument through which that would be accomplished. It is well to keep this passage in mind, because one of the things that causes people trouble is to read verses in isolation. We are to be “to the praise of the glory of His grace” (Eph. 1:6, 12). When man was alienated from God, God made him to be accepted in the beloved in Christ, through the provisions and arrangements God made. The next verse shows that redemption is through His blood (Eph. 1:7). In Phil. 2:6-11, Christ was coming in humiliation, living among men, being obedient to the death of the cross, and God highly exalted Him and gave Him a name above every name, “to the glory of God the Father” (2:11).

If one is ever going to understand what the Bible teaches about the matter of work, here is the background of it. When man sinned, he brought about a situation that called upon God to engage in a new activity. If God remained inactive when Adam and Eve sinned, the world would have been forever hopeless. Yet, because the loving heart of God would not allow Him to rest while His own creation was caught up in the bondage of sin and alienated from His fellowship, God set about to go to work again. God working out redemption makes it possible for man to be saved. When it talks about God working in us, it has to do with this plan and system of redemption, the impact, effect, and motivation that comes to us through the provisions that God made. This is the reason that Eph. 2:8-10 reads as it does. God is the author and the one that works to provide grace. He provided Christ, the plan of redemption, and everything relating to it.

The rest of God will not be complete until man is finally brought back into that same situation that existed in the first chapters of Genesis where they were in full fellowship with God in the absence of sin and its problems. He will not rest until sin is gone, the devil and all those who live for him are separated, and the redeemed are sent to that eternal reward as they were in the very beginning. Then, there will be the sweet rest that God knew in Gen. 2:2.

Therefore, when the Bible talks about the work of God, it talks about redemption. This is the reason that the Bible talks about a “new creation” (2 Cor. 5:17). This is what the church is—a new creation, a new man. Because God worked, she came into existence. Finally, one day, all that work will be completed and finished. He will banish all sin. The redeemed will be able to live with God and enjoy what Adam and Eve did before sin entered. The gracious heart of God will find satisfaction again as His redeemed will be in His presence and enjoy His fellowship undisturbed in every way. This is the work of God working in the redemption of humanity!

--Sam Willcut