

GOSPEL – It's the Power of God!

Romans 12:1-2

In 1945, when American troops were on Okinawa, they found a tiny village named Shimabuku.

Thirty years previously, a missionary on his way to mainland Japan had stopped long enough to make two converts. He taught them a couple of hymns, gave them a Bible in Japanese, and encouraged them to live by it.

The villagers patterned their lives on Jesus, knew the Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount became their guide to social conduct.

The Bible was their main literature in school. The result was that for years they'd had no jail, no brothel, no drunkenness, no divorce, and there was a high level of health and happiness.

The Word of God transforms. (Cf. Hebrews 4:15: *For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin*; 2 Corinthians 3:18: *But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord*; Romans 12:2: *And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God*; James 1:25: *But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, ad is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does*). It will transform you into what God wants you to be—Christ like!

(Mark N. Posey, Pulpit Preview, Vol. 10, Issue 6, 6/01/2019)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 26

October 7, 2020

Number 20

CHURCH OF CHRIST
711 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 88
Carthage, TN 37030
RETURN SERVICE
REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Carthage, TN 37030
Permit No. 12

SMITH COUNTY LIGHT

"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)



MEETING PLACE OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders:

Michael Hackett
(615-897-2313)
Johnny Law
(615-735-1240)
Jerry Phillips
(615-735-0326)
R.W. Vincent
(615-735-0361)

711 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 88
Carthage, TN. 37030
(615) 735-0114

Deacons:

Josh Brown
(931-319-9994)
Barry Cook
(615-735-3194)
Steve Harper
(615-735-2651)
Jeremy Hassler
(931-335-1884)
Chris Hicks
(615-418-6472)
Jerry Hicks
(615-418-6637)
Dusty Whitaker
(615-281-8140)

Email: carthagecoc@dtccom.net

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

Sunday Worship

9:00 A.M.
6:00 P.M.
12:30 P.M. (4th & 5th Sunday)

Bible Study

Sunday Morning
10:15 A.M.

Wednesday Evening
7:00 P.M.

Secretary:

Elaine Wright
(615-735-0114)

For Transportation to Services
615-735-0114 or 615-418-6637

Fax Number: (615) 735-0131

Website: www.carthagechurchofchrist.net

Sunday & Wednesday Services broadcast on Facebook & YouTube

FREE Bible Correspondence Courses, Tracts or Home Bible Study/ Videos.
(615-735-0114 or 615-735-2462)

"VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME"

"ENCOURAGEMENT"

I am convinced that everyone needs encouragement. We live in an imperfect world full of problems and troubles. Daily, the attacks on Christianity seem to get worse. Doing the right thing (according to the Bible) only lands one in condemnation by those who follow a worldly standard. If you have the gift of encouragement—use it! The rewards may not be physical or monetary. But they are there nonetheless. The difference you can make in someone's life may be the difference that keeps them faithful, that keeps them trying, that keeps them from giving up all hope.

I am blessed to have several encouragers in my life. When I am down I can count on them to pick me up and keep me going. Oh, to be able to return the favor! And one of the most interesting things is that those who I count as my encouragers do it not looking for public recognition or flattery. They do it because they know of its value, and the good it accomplishes. They encourage so that others will do good, and that in turn helps them to do good.

Encouragers are positive people who see the glass as half full, the silver lining in every dark cloud, and know that it is always the darkest just before dawn. Encouragers have a way of turning a bad situation into a good one; they brighten a room when they enter it and find ways to snatch victory out of the jaws of defeat. Those who have exercised this wonderful virtue have the ability to be an encouragement by their presence alone. The very fact they are there is a message of courage and hope to those who are in despair.

If you have ever wondered what your "gift" is, and are still puzzled as to what contribution you can make to the body of Christ let me suggest that you try to be a Barnabas—be an encourager. A card here, a phone call there, an email, a little gift, and a special word spoken can do volumes for those who need support. (Greg Swango, 6/07/2006), SermonsBySwango.com)

36 And Joses, who was also named Barnabas by the apostles (which is translated **Son of Encouragement**), a Levite of the Country of Cyprus, 37 having land, sold it, and brought the money and laid it at the apostles' feet. (Acts 4:36-37).

22 Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. 23 When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and **encouraged** them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. 24 For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord (Acts 11:22-24).

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

ARE WE LOSING OUR LEARNING?

“The virus” has created concern in the educational field as it has in every other segment of society. Administrators, teachers, and parents have expressed fear that numerous students are “losing their learning” due to absence from the classroom. Losing their learning?! How could it happen? The process of teaching and learning has been around a long, long time.

This is not new. It has been happening in the spiritual realm for centuries. Adam and Eve were instructed by their Creator as to how they were to behave and conduct themselves (Gen. 2:15-17). However, they “lost their learning” and transgressed the Divine declaration (3:1-6).

Another example is the children of Israel. In describing God’s deliverance and care, Moses declared, “He found him (Israel) in a desert land, the wasteland, a howling wilderness; He encircled him, **He instructed him**, He kept him as the apple of His eye” (Deut. 32:10). But as a nation, Israel “lost his learning” and was sent into captivity. It is ironic that a nation delivered from captivity would later experience captivity!

In His “Great Invitation” Jesus implores, “Come unto me, all you that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and **learn of me...**” (See Matt. 11:28-30.). The Master Teacher has a message to be remembered! That message is His glorious Gospel which will enlighten the mind (Psa. 19:8; Eph. 1:18); cleanse the heart (Eph. 5:26-27); save the soul (Rom. 1:16; James 1:21); and set us free (John 8:32).

Can we “lose our learning”? Peter penned his second epistle to urge fellow Christians to “**remember**” (See 3:1.). The implication is they were in danger of “losing their learning”. Paul exhorted the Ephesians, “But you have not so **learned** Christ” (4:20). Hebrews 5:12 identifies some who should have been instructing others in the fundamentals of the faith. Instead they needed “re-instruction” therein! They seem to have “lost their learning”. James contrasts a sober student of the word, who diligently searches, obeys, and follows it, with the “forgetful hearer” who “loses his learning” (See James 1:23-25.).

A young student approached his teacher: “Teacher, will you **learn** me how to work this problem?” The teacher gently explained, “I would love to **teach** you how to do the problem, but you will have to do the **learning**.” Jesus is our Teacher, we are His disciples. He teaches; we learn. If we “lose our learning” we will lose our soul!

Edward L Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

SICK: Faye Maberry received good news from her latest biopsy – no cancer! Linda Cook is quarantined with COVID. Barry was to receive the test on Monday. Doug Swann has also tested positive. We trust all are better. Hal Kirby (former member), has been in the hospital at Lebanon due to the virus, but is now at home. Ann has improved after a quarantine at home. Joe Massey is to begin another series of treatments. Dale Sadler (former member and preacher at Birdwell’s Chapel), is recuperating from hip surgery. Phil Bains (Rome) is dealing with an arm injury after being caught in a hay baler. Grant Lollar, son of Cary and Kelli (former members), has returned home, but will have surgery on the other foot in six weeks. Lola King continues treatments. Gary Lawrence continues to recuperate at home. Chuck Jordan (Red Boiling), had surgery for cancer this week. Dennis Hackett’s aunt, Joyce Kilgore, is very ill. Ruby Anderson, Edward and Barbara’s sister-in-law, is to have a kidney biopsied next week. Jaden Anderson was taken to the ER Saturday evening. She is now feeling better. Joe Hensley is still in need of prayers. Jan Anderson is currently rehabbing in the local nursing facility. Barbara Jenkins was able to be with us last Wednesday. Dale Woodard, Barbara’s brother, is improving. Continue to remember Steve Harper in prayer. Cheryl Hicks is able to be with us after back problems. Jimmy and Carolyn Rigsby, Melinda Spivey’s parents, are now at home after hospitalizations. W. A. Gibbs continues his dialysis. Please call 615-735-0114 with updates and news items.

NURSINGHOME/ASSISTED/LIVING/SHUT-INS: Lovell Chaffin; Wilma Richardson; Judith Newberry; Mary Lou Smith; Frances Glosser; Ricky Branham (SCH&R); Loneta Bains (Pavilion); Hattie Branham and Pat Paysinger (Shut-ins).

IN THE MILITARY: Jana Watson, Ann Carter’s grand-daughter (Army); Randy Carter’s sons and Lacey Crockett’s brothers, Derek (Army) & Landon Carter (Coast Guard); PFC Samuel Burton (USMC), Darlene Fariss’ grandson; Benjamin Gentry (USMC); Cameron Huff (USMC).

COMMODITIES FOR TN CHILDREN’S HOME: The truck will be by in a few days to pick up our donations of Liquid Laundry Detergents and Paper Towels. You may give \$20 for perishables if you wish.

SINGING: Third Sunday Putnam County Singing at Bethlehem church of Christ (7845 Water Plant Rd), October 18, 2:00 P.M.

PRAYER LIST: A. J. Purkey; Tammy Crockett; Sammy Webb; Josh Dillard; Dot Holliman; Lavern Hardee; Mike Ruis; Alan Fitts; Joe Massey; Steve Higginbotham; Wayne Lankford; Sandy Waggoner; Nancy Hicks Bane; Barbara Williams; Michael Parsons; Laurie Adcock; Wendy Williams; Roslyn Fox Stout; Judy Fox Jones; Wanda Hailey; Denise Griffin; James Hix; Rylee Winfree; Rebecca Huffines Thompson; Tommy & Linda Ashburn; Jerry Hutchins; Danny Claire; Edna Shoulders; Bill Ross; Scott Bane; Patsy Link; Tyrone Poynter; Emily Moss and children; Lucas Wakefield; Linda Dennis; Gary Anderson; Shirley Henry; Roy Hicks; Bob & Donnieta White; John Conditt; Duane Hesson; Billy Woodard; Tammy Bush; Jerry Glenn; Bentley Cowan; David Lipe; Louie Gray West; Taylor & Spencer Keaton; Paulette Blackburn; Emily Allen; Will Gregory; Rick Blankenship; Debby Flatt; Ken Miller; Tom Brown; Alicia Haynes; Joey Black; Joe Kemp; Susanne Tisdale; Pattie Birdwell; Mary Ellen Lawrence; Donna Kemp; Ray Hobbs; Wes Stafford; Sawyer Cole; Richard Rhoten; Buddy & Jan Chaffin; Earl Carter; Jennie Burnett; Arnold Rich.

CONGRATULATIONS: Carol Woodard has another “Grand Girl”! Madeline Mae Marvin (7 lbs., 9 oz, 18.5), was born 9/27/20 to Susan and Eric. Big sisters are Elizabeth and Grace. All are doing well.

SYMPATHY: Our sincere sympathy is extended to the family of Tony and Mary Jo Hackett is the recent death of their nephew Trevor Cleary.

THANK YOU: The church has received recent “Thank You’s” from Cobie and Shirley Sadler for our prayers for Dale.

EVENTS CALENDAR: *Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional:* First Sundays of February, May, August, November, 2:00 PM (To be resumed when permitted); *Fifth Sunday Pavilion Devotionals:* **2:00 P.M.** (To be resumed when permitted).

YOUTH VISITATION PROJECT: The 2’s & 3’s class has helped make some wreaths which will be delivered this Sunday afternoon to some unable to be with us in our service. Thanks to the teachers of this class and other adults who may be assisting. How wonderful!!!

EDP MEETING: The monthly meeting for the elders, deacons, and preachers will be this Sunday (11th) at 4:30 P.M. in the annex. Please pick up a copy of the agenda tonight or Sunday morning.