

THE POWER OF PRAYER

There is a legend of a prince with a crooked back. He was so ashamed of his appearance that he refused to go out in public. One day he hired a skillful sculptor to make a statue of him, but with a straight back so he could see himself as he might have been. He ordered that the complete statue be placed in a secret nook of the palace garden where only he could see it.

Every day the prince spent hours looking at the statue. Months later people began to say, "The prince's back seems straighter than it was," or, "The prince seems much more noble looking these days."

Hearing this, the prince went again into the garden and stood before the statue and behold, his back became as straight as the statue's.

We can be somewhat like that prince, especially when we develop the habit of daily Bible study and prayer. Growing in our knowledge of God's word, and living it, will point us in the right direction. Growing in devotion and prayer will transform us spiritually. Our circumstances may not change, but we will be strengthened to glorify God in those circumstances. So, stand tall and noble, child of God!

(David Bragg, one of the ministers at Northwest Church of Christ, Greensboro, NC, co-editor of BulletinGold)

ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 27

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Number 8

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

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(615- 897-2313)
Johnny Law
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Jerry Phillips
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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

Sunday Worship

9:00 A.M.
6:00 P.M.

12:30 P.M. (Last Sunday of Month)

Bible Study

Sunday Morning
10:15 A.M.

Wednesday Evening
7:00 P.M.

Evangelist:

Edward L Anderson
(615-735-2462)

Youth Minister:

Justin Mauldin
(931-319-6548)

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"

SO, YOU WANT TO BE GREAT?!

Humans of both sexes often aspire to greatness. We see it on the field in sports, on the stage and screen in entertainment, and in the classrooms of academia. There is nothing inherently wrong with wanting to "be the best you can be". All have heard, "Do your best", or "Give it your best", from a parent, teacher, coach, or good friend. Sound advice! "Anything worth doing is worth doing right", some said.

The world is preoccupied with greatness. Who is the greatest of all-time? It is asked about athletes, actors, and entertainers. It is posed concerning quarterbacks, pitchers, kickers, shooters, and hitters. The debate is unending. The question will never be answered to everyone's satisfaction.

The standards of the world regarding greatness revolve around records and riches. How much was he paid? How many touchdown passes did he throw? What was his completion percentage? How many homeruns did he hit? How many games did he win?

Jesus' disciples were also concerned with the matter of greatness. His "Little Child" discourse was delivered when the disciples came asking, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" (Matt. 18:1ff). Jesus reminds them that unless one is converted and becomes as a little child he will not even enter the kingdom (v. 3). He declares, "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, **the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven**" (v. 4, emphasis added). Jesus would address the subject again in Matthew 23:11 by simply, but emphatically stating: "**But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.**"

Mark's account reveals that during the trek through Galilee on the way to Capernaum, the disciples "had disputed - ("reasoned", Luke) - among themselves, who should be the greatest" (Mark 10:34; cf. Luke 9:46-48). Jesus, knowing their hearts, said to the twelve, "If any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and **servant of all**" (v. 35).

The concept of the Christ is far different, but vastly superior, to that of the world. Jesus further explains, "Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and **he who humbles himself shall be exalted**" (Matt. 23:12). The way up is down!

The exaltation may not even come in this life, but it will come "in due time" (1 Peter 5:6). Our Lord humbled Himself to die the despised death of the cross (Phil. 2:8). He would, however, following His resurrection, be greatly exalted (Acts 2:33; 5:31).

Still want to be great? If so, humble yourself, obey Him, and follow Him.

Edward L Anderson

FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

The Gospel Meeting with brother Clarence Deloach preaching was indeed a delight. We are eternally grateful for the restoration of his health and his ability to be with us. We were blessed by the presence of visitors from the community and sister congregations. The word was faithfully preached; the truth lovingly presented; the seed thoroughly sown; and the fellowship sweet. The reading and study of God's holy word, the beautiful hymns, and the fervent prayers brought glory to God and edified every receptive soul. Appreciation is expressed to Barry Cohoon and Johnny Law, who very capably led the singing. To all who worked behind the scenes preparing for the meeting, inviting others, and welcoming and greeting guests, we are deeply gratefully. Above all, we are thankful for the manifold blessings of God made available to us through His beloved Son!

Many enjoyed the Saturday (10th), afternoon fish fry and fellowship preceding the meeting. Gratitude is expressed to all who assisted with purchasing and preparing the fish, fries, and hush puppies. A special "Thanks" to the cooks! Slaw, other side dishes, and desserts were brought by so many. Thanks! A big THANK YOU to all who cleaned up afterwards, as well.

Our sound system and mikes have been repaired and modified and seem to be performing well. We apologize for any distraction due to a problem with the portable mike. It, too, will be replaced. Dusty Whitaker, Jeremy Hassler, and Justin Mauldin are to be thanked for their time, expertise, and effort in the matter.

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 7-11 at 6:30 P.M. Classes for all ages, including adults, will be offered Monday through Thursday. Friday's event will be devoted to awards and recognition of the children attending. The adult class will have different speakers each evening. Contact Jeremy Hassler, if you can assist.

Reminders: Pick up a copy of the current issue of *The Spiritual Sword*. Please schedule a time to have a picture made for the directory. Sign up on the list on table by front exit. If you are not on Birthday/Anniversary list, give your names and dates to Elaine or leave them on the answering machine.

Edward L Anderson

NEWS & NOTES:

WELCOME VISITORS: A warm welcome is extended to all our visitors. We are honored to have you and your family. Come again!
NEW ELDER & DEACON: Barry Cook began serving as a bishop this past Sunday. Pray for our eldership as they lead us. Justin Mauldin was added to our group of deacons. Pray for all of them as well.

SICK: Dayton Jamison was to be his doctor this week due to continued pain in his back and leg. Faye Maberry is sick with cold-like symptoms. Calvin Duggin, Allie Smith's brother and Julie Beth Flueallen Duggin's husband, received serious burns in a recent brushfire accident. Teresa Hampton, Gary's wife, is undergoing tests and procedures and is facing major surgery April 26. James Spivey, Faye Maberry's brother-in-law, will have aortic aneurysm surgery April 27. Her great-grandson, Oaken Maberry will have hernia surgery soon. Carol Woodard requests prayers for Beverly Hix, who is very ill. Mary Phillips is seeing her doctor twice weekly. Jerry Phillips is dealing with nerve pain on his left side. Lola King and Patricia Brooks continue treatments. Janice Hicks had back-to-back (Tues. and Wed.) chemo this week. Carolyn Harris is awaiting eye surgery. W. A. Gibbs continues dialysis. Josiah Hackett has been dealing with allergies/cold. Barbara Anderson was not with us Sunday due to allergies/sinus infection and a temp. Barbara Jenkins was able to be with us Sunday. Ruby Fisher is having trouble walking. Keep her in your prayers. Peggy Denton continues to improve. Remember Gary White, Allen's grandfather. (Please call 615-735-0114 with updates/news).

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

SYMPATHY: Sympathy is expressed to the following families: Justin and Sarah Mauldin in the passing of Justin's grandfather, Jerry Glenn on Monday (19th).

MAY BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY LIST: Joseph Law (2); Kailee Austin (5); Candice Harper, Mallie Kate Whitaker (13); Pam Morris (16); Brittany Hackett (19); Cameron Spivey (22); Linda Dickens, Sherry Lester (23); Carolyn Harris (25); Emma Denton, Rick Spivey (27); Addison Grace Maberry (28); Chris Washer, Joey Dillard (29); Morgan Dodson; Hattie Branham (30). Gerald & Patty Piper (5/3/1958); Andy & Hannah Rutherford (5/18/2018); James & Regina Rowland (5/23/1974).

VISITATION/GREETING PROGRAM: Josh Brown has a list of newcomers and shut-ins. If you wish to help with welcomes and calls, please contact him.

AREA EVENTS: Gospel Meeting: Crossville church of Christ, May 2-5, with Chris King preaching; **Ladies Day:** McCoinsville (Jackson Co.), May 8, with Shanna Anderson (Amanda Scoggins and Vanessa Netherton -girls' classes). **Personal Evangelism Seminar:** Willow Avenue church of Christ, May 7-8, with Rob and Nicole Whitacre (See posters on bulletin board).

PRAYER LIST: Joyce Kilgore; Beverly Hix; James Spivey; Oaken Maberry; Mrs. Willie Sevier; Joyce Burford; Ron Gibson; Steven Linville; Pete Williams; Donald Eskew; Mark Scudder; Zander Dixon; Andy Futrell; Patricia Nye; Buddy Hyatt; J.B. Dailey; Dustin Justice (lymphoma); Faye Massey; Joe Hensley; Barbara Dixon; Conner Hackett; Gary White; A. J. Purkey; Josh Dillard; Lavern Hardee; Alan Fitts; Dan Winkler; Steve Higginbotham; Wayne Lankford; Shirley Henry; Sandy Waggoner; Nancy Hicks Bane; Michael Parsons; Wendy Williams; Ruby Anderson; Roslyn Fox Stout; Denise Griffin; James Hix; Rylee Winfree; Rebecca Huffines Thompson; Tommy & Linda Ashburn; Jerry Hutchins; Danny Claire; Bill Ross; Scott Bane; Emily Moss and children; Lucas Wakefield; Linda Dennis; Gary Anderson; Bob & Donnieta White; John Conditt; Duane Hesson; Billy Woodard; Tammy Bush; Jerry Glenn; Bentley Cowan; Louie Gray West; Taylor & Spencer Keaton; Paulette Blackburn; Emily Allen; Will Gregory; Rick Blankenship; 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; Earl Carter; Jennie Burnett; Arnold Rich; Jimmy and Carolyn Rigsby.

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

EVENTS CALENDAR: Smith County Health Care/Rehab Center Devotional: First Sundays of February, May, August, November (To be resumed when permitted); **Fifth Sunday Pavilion Devotional** (To be resumed when permitted); **Vacation Bible School:** June 7-11; **Jackson/Smith County Youth Camp:** July 18-23.

UPDATE DIRECTORY: If you have not made a first-time picture or need to update the existing one, please sign up for an appointment (it won't take long), for May 2. If your info has changed, please take an information sheet, fill it out, and return to Jeremy or Kristi Hassler.

"What I believe about God is the most important thing about me."
"What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us." You can see God from anywhere if your mind is set to love and obey Him." – A.W. Tozer via Findlay (Sparta) bulletin