

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

February 11, 2018

When The Stars Come Out

Mark and Katy were living a happy life in our community and church when they were abruptly uprooted and transferred to a remote, thinly-populated outpost in Alberta, Canada.

I stopped by to spend a night with them when a trip took me that way. We talked and laughed late into the night. But out of the corner of my eye I saw a tear trickle down Katy's cheek.

Before going to bed I stepped outside and was mesmerized by a breathtaking view of a pitch-black sky festooned with a thousand shimmering stars. Suddenly I realized I wasn't alone; Katy was leaning against the porch railing, gazing at the same sky.

"Homesick?" I asked.

"Terribly!" she said. "I miss my friends and my church. This is so far from home; sometimes I feel like I'm on a different planet.

"I come out here most every night," she said. "I like it when the stars come out; they connect me with my closest friends back home, because they are the same stars I used to look at with them. I have a pact with them that we will still look at these stars together—they there, me here—and think of each other."

Centuries ago, a prophet thought the stars provided good medicine for homesick hearts. He pointed an exiled and dejected people to the stars ...

Lift your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these? He who brings out the starry host one by one, and calls them each by name (Isa. 40:26).

The stars that looked down on those homesick captives in Babylon were the very same stars they had looked up at as they strolled the streets of Jerusalem in their beloved homeland.

The stars in the sweep of Katy's view not only connected the lonely station where she was living with the hometown she had left behind; they also linked her with ages past, for they were the same stars that looked down on those who went before her.

Go outside tonight and look at the stars. Your father and grandfather looked at the very same stars.

And long before your grandpa lifted his eyes to look at them, Jesus stepped out the door of his Nazareth carpenter shop, raised his eyes toward home and saw the very same stars. Moses, too, saw the same stars as he trudged the desert sands between Egypt and Canaan.

When you look at the stars you're gazing into a distant past. According to Benjamin Burress, astronomer at the Chabot Space & Science Center in Oakland, California, the farthest star visible to the naked eye is a little over 4,000 light years away, in the constellation Cassiopeia. Travelling at 186,300 miles per second, it has taken the light of that star 4,000 years to make its way from there to here. Think of it! You are seeing the light from that star, not as it is now, but as it was the very day 4,000 years ago when God said to Abraham, *"Look up at the heavens and count the stars—if indeed you can count them."* (Genesis 15:5).

Stunned by the stars, the psalmist said ... *When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established; what are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them ?* (Psalms. 8:3-4).

What are you that God is mindful of you? What are you that He cares for you? Simple. He thought of you and chose you be-

fore he created the world—and before He hurled the first star into space.

You mean more than the world and the stars to Him. You mean everything to Him.

— Joe Barnett

That's why he gave His Only Begotten Son to save you. wp

Ten Things To Avoid

1. Remorse over yesterday's failure.
2. Anxiety over today's problems.
3. Worry over tomorrow's uncertainty.
4. Procrastination with one's duty.
5. Resentment of someone's success.
6. Criticism of a neighbor's imperfections.
7. Hatred of another's differences.
8. Impatience with youth's inexperience.
9. Skepticism of the church's future.
10. Unbelief in God's providence.

— Selected from unknown

Pride Packages For Soldiers: We rotate the items that we bring in so there will be a variety of things available for Pat to send to our soldiers. For the next two weeks we'll be bringing: Soups in pull tab cans, Hormel or Dinty Moore dinners in small oval containers Beef Jerky, Slim Jims, Little containers of fruit in pull tab cans (the little plastic containers of fruit seem to get broken in shipping)

Reading : John 16: 5-15 ; John 17: 6-17

Birthday : Kindle Koonce February 11

Anniversary : Pete an Hazel February 14

NEXT WEEK : (**February 18, 2017**)

Song Leader : **Tim**

Scripture Reader : **Jonathan**

Table & Announcements : **Greg**

Prayer list :

Riley Stevens: Mindy reports that Riley is having significant respiratory, digestive and respiratory issues.

Bob Stevens: Bob's recovery from surgery still going so well.

* Bob sends thanks for the hearts "*made my heart stronger.*"

Hailey Wilhour: Has undergoing chemo & awaiting a bone marrow transplant

Bruce Miller: Madonna's brother-in-law continues to receive chemo treatments.

Rosanne Reynolds : Knee replacement recovery goes well, but remains painful. Also, painful pinched nerve in her neck.

Ron Bartanen : They are hoping for surgery in February.

Ernie Wasson : Recovering from complications from surgery

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

Ruby, Doris, Mary, Jeanne, Delores, Marg, Pete & Hazel, Betty, Francis

Other members with ongoing issues :

Robin Shumard : significant respiratory and foot issues

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing painful back issues

Megan Nichols : About the same - still in physical therapy

Madonna : Madonna's chemo will continue indefinitely.

Glenda Hyneman : Improving, but issues remain / surgery

Mindy Stevens : Experiencing immune system issues.

Jerry Rankin : Heart Issues

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Dan Luidhardt : Wayne's friend is suffering from kidney failure due to diabetes. Stabilized, but remains an ongoing problem.

** Each day as you pray for those on this list,
always include our congregation and her elders*

*Visitors are always welcomed.
We invite you to visit our assemblies.*

Schedule of Services :

Sunday Morning : Bible Study 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:20 a.m.

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday : Bible Study 7:00 p.m.



Ya'll Come !

