

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

April 8, 2018

People of Courage Arise!

It was a daunting task from the beginning. It seemed destined for failure. When God called Ezekiel to prophesy to his fellow Israelites in exile, even He warned that it would be difficult and likely unsuccessful. God said, *"The people to whom I am sending you are obstinate and stubborn ... and whether they listen or fail to listen – for they are a rebellious house – they will know that a prophet has been among them"* (Ezekiel 2:4-5). He went on to prepare Ezekiel that it might feel like he was living among thorns and briars and scorpions, but *"Do not be afraid of what they say or terrified by them, though they are a rebellious house. You must speak my words to them, whether they listen, or fail to listen"* (2:6).

God gave Ezekiel the words to speak. They were sweet, like honey, in his mouth (3:3). God sent him to his own people, people who could easily understand his message, not to people of obscure or difficult languages (3:5-6).

Yet, even though they could easily understand the words, they would not listen to Ezekiel because they were unwilling to listen to God (3:7). When he finally got to the exiles at Tel Abib, all he could do was sit among them for an entire week - overwhelmed (3:15)!

I think we understand how Ezekiel felt, don't we? We hear stories about how the church is growing in places where we can't even speak their language, yet, right here at home the response is not much different than preaching to a brick wall! The message we have is the sweetest message ever told, yet because people are rebellious and obstinate, they no longer want to hear from us about God's grace because they no longer want to listen to God. It's frustrating. It's overwhelming. And so our tendency is to just sit around and keep our gospel to ourselves.

But that's not what God has called us to do. He has called us to take the gospel to the entire world whether they want to hear it or not (Matthew 28:19-20). We are to tell the gospel to people who may even respond with violent words or actions. Why? The answer is also found in Ezekiel's story. God told Ezekiel his responsibility was not to be successful, but to be faithful. As a watchman, he had to warn the people of God's coming judgment. He was not held accountable to the way the people responded to his warning, but he was accountable if he failed to warn the people (see 3:16-21).

To do this takes courage, lots and lots of courage. None of us want to teach people who are unwilling to listen. We'd much rather teach the willing, those with a heart for God. But God wants even the obstinate and unwilling to be given the gospel. Let's be people of courage who are willing to rise up and teach all people the message of God!

— Joe Chesser

Shirker, Jerker, or Worker

Then the Lord said, "You had compassion on the plant for which you did not work and which you did not cause to grow, which came up overnight and perished overnight. Should I not have compassion on Nineveh, the great city in which there are more than 120,000 who don't know left from right.....?"

Jonah 4:10-11

In this world we see shirkers, jerkers, and workers. Too bad we find the same in the service of the Lord. Jonah had shirked his responsibility until he had taken a three day fish ride. Now he

was jerking God around about his shade plant that had died. Imagine having more concern for one's comfort, than thinking about a whole city of lost souls? Boy does that hit close to home. When we look over our agenda for the coming days, is any of it about the concern for lost souls. We sure have lots of time to think about our creature comforts. Reread Christ's commission for us all. Then ask, "Are we shirkers, jerkers, or workers?"

— David Grubb

New Birth

We rejoice to announce that Monday evening Ryan Steven was born anew of the water and the Spirit. Several of us gathered to see him baptized into Christ. A new birth is always an occasion of great joy and this one was truly that. Thus, we congratulate Ryan on his newfound relationship with our Lord and pray that he will continue to grow into a mighty servant.

Thank You Note

The Stevens family wishes to thank all who came for Ryan's baptism, sent cards, etc. Your loving fellowship is appreciated.

Lady's Day in Paris, IL Saturday, April 21

Lady's tea at the villas ... May 20 , 3:00

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: Unscented and alcohol free baby wipes, Sample containers of shampoo, conditioner, foot powder, lotion, shower gel, body wash, mouthwash,

Birthdays : Brenda Stevens ... April 12
Mindy Stevens ... April 13

Reading : **I Corinthians 15: 12-19 ; Romans 1: 1-6**

NEXT WEEK : (**April 15, 2018**)

Song Leader : **Tim**

Scripture Reader : **Ron**

Table & Announcements : **Greg**

Prayers and Condolences

About 12:30 a.m. Saturday morning (April 7) Jeanne Shumard went to be with the Lord. She was in a rehab center recovering from hip replacement surgery, but the shock of it all was essentially too much for her to handle. We extend our most sincere condolences and our prayers to Roger, Darrell, Scott and the whole Shumard family. Jeanne will be missed by all of us.

Prayer list :

Ron Bartanen : Surgery to remove the tumor from Ron's bladder is scheduled for tomorrow. Ron is above eighty and has been suffering with this painful condition for an extended time so this is a serious procedure. Please pray for Ron during this time of trial.

Ryley Stevens : This week Ryley will undergo a lip tie release procedure. It will be performed in doctor's office.

Rosanne Reynolds : She has two different surgeries coming this month and continues to deal with severe pain.

Megan Nichols : Physical therapy is producing positive results

Robin Shumard : Painful Neuropathy is limiting her mobility

Mark Niehls : Awaiting surgery to replace heart valve.

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

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

Other members with ongoing issues :

Nancy Miller : Parkinson's Disease, moved out to farm

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing severe painful back issues

Madonna : Her biweekly chemo will continue indefinitely.

Glenda Hyneman : Multiple recurring issues, some serious

Jerry Rankin : Heart Issues

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

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

Hailey Wilhour: Beginning to show some improvement

Ernie Wasson : Home, legs beginning to heal, can't walk yet

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 !