

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

July 22, 2018

Vision

Several decades back an inventor had a daring vision for a better kind of watch. After working on his idea for some time and building a prototype, he decided to go to Switzerland, the world capital of watch making, to seek backing for the manufacture of his new design. When the renowned Swiss watchmakers examined his invention, they said, "This is not a watch. It doesn't have hands to tell time. I only has little numbers. You have to have a big hand and a little hand to make a watch." Then, when they opened the back, they were even more negative. "This thing doesn't even have gears or springs or jewels. It is just a lot of electronic parts. This thing is not a watch!" And they would have nothing to do with it. So the inventor took his revolutionary idea to Japan where he found industrialists who weren't so sure what made up a watch and who agreed to manufacture his idea. And, of course, you know, the rest is history. Most watches today are electronic and are made in the Far East instead of in the Swiss Alpines.

Perhaps, some of our problem in reaching the lost, improving mankind, and keeping the church pure is our lack of vision - lack of spiritual vision. Many see things as they are, or think they are - never seeing things as they could be or should be. Many think that the way things are - is as they should be. The Bible says,

“Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained,” (Prov. 29:18). The word “vision” in this verse has reference to God’s revelation.

Our vision must come through God’s word as revealed in the pages of the Bible. If we will only look at the world, or any given situation, as God sees them - then the correct choices and perceptions will become clear. Clear and unbiased vision is critical. Do not allow what has happened in the past, or is happening presently, to cloud your thinking or insight. Remember, **“There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.” (Prov. 14:12).** The way one has always done a thing carries no authority in religion. Our future resides in our biblical vision.

— Alan Smith

Reaching Beyond Ourselves

Reach: *verb* 1) stretch out an arm in order to touch or grasp something 2) be able to touch (something) with an outstretched arm or leg 3) arrive at or attain; extend to 4) make contact with 5) succeed in influencing or having an effect on (from the Oxford English Dictionary)

In the Lord’s church, we are to be very concerned about reaching beyond ourselves. It is the Lord’s will that we do so. It is the work of the church. It should be a labor of love for us. Notice that we are to...

...**“reach down”** in benevolence to help the less fortunate. As a church, we need to be compassionately doing good to all (Gal. 6:10; Heb. 13:16). As an extension of Christ upon the earth, we need to help others in His name.

...**“reach up”** in worship of God. As a church, we need to properly and sincerely glorify God in our praise of Him (John 4:24; Phil. 3:3). When we gather together as His people, we should sing and pray with heartfelt expressions of joy and thanksgiving.

...**“reach in”** in edification of one another. As a church, we realize that we are the family of God and it is important that we lovingly encourage one other (Rom. 14:19; 1 Thess. 5:11). When we strengthen our bond with each other, we strengthen the church.

...“reach out” in evangelizing the lost. As a church, we are to always proclaim the saving message of the gospel of Christ to one and all (Matt. 28:18-20; 2 Tim. 4:2). The church that belongs to Christ should always be promoting Christ.

Indeed, let us as a church always be reaching beyond ourselves by reaching in every direction: up, down, in, out, and all around. Let us be concerned about honoring God and doing His will with every extension we make. Let us be busy actively - reaching, reaching. And let us, like Paul, always be “... *reaching forward to those things which are ahead*” (Phil. 3:13).

— Edd Sterchi

Mark Your Calendar : Susan has reserved a pavilion for us to have a potluck fellowship on **August 26th**. After we have our lunch together, all who would like to do so will conduct a service for the residents at Shelby Manor at 2:30.

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: Bags of any kind of individually wrapped hard candy (not chocolate), Gum, bubble gum, Pop Tarts, (any but strawberry favorite), Fruit snacks, Fruit by the Foot, Gushers

Anniversary : Tim & Susan Bowyer July 26

Reading : **Romans 7: 14-25 ; II Timothy 1: 12-13, 4: 6-8**

NEXT WEEK : (July 29, 2018)

Song Leader : Delmar

Scripture Reader : Bob

Table & Announcements : Tim

Sympathy :

This week Carol Rule, the sister of Sherry Clark, died. We had prayed for Carol for a lengthy period of time and she'd been improving, but she took a turn for the worse which resulted in her death. Carol will be cremated, but for some reason there is a delay in doing so. Consequently, her funeral will be on the 28th in Watseka, Illinois. This is a tough time for Sherry and her family so please keep them all in your prayers.

Prayer list :

Rosanne : Carpel tunnel Pain. 2nd surgery in early August

Brenda : Sis. Stevens has an appointment with a back surgeon at Washington University Medical Center in St. Louis. This is a diagnostic visit.

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

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

Other members with ongoing issues :

Ron and Doris Bartanen : Are slowly improving, but continue to have significant health issues.

Pete & Hazel : Dealing with multiple issues, some age related

Delaney West : Surgery on hold as tumor is being observed

Wayne : New meds, but extreme weakness continues.

Nancy Miller : Parkinson's Disease

Robin Shumard : Due to neurological issues which are secondary to diabetes, Robin is confined to a wheelchair.

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing severe painful back issues

Madonna : Her biweekly chemo will continue indefinitely.

Glenda Hyneman : Multiple recurring issues, some serious

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Jerry Rankin : Heart Issues

Bruce Miller: Madonna's brother-in-law ..awaiting test result

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 !