

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

March 8, 2020

Blessed Are the Peacemakers

In Old Testament (and, even today, in some parts of the world), a well was an extremely valuable commodity. It was a necessity for human survival and for the well-being of livestock. It's not surprising, then, that a well was often a source of contention as people argued about who owned the well.

For example, *"Isaac dug again the wells of water that had been dug in the days of Abraham his father...and he gave them the names that his father had given them. But when Isaac's servants dug in the valley and found there a well of spring water, the herdsmen of Gerar quarreled with Isaac's herdsmen, saying, 'The water is ours.'"... Then they dug another well, and they quarreled over that also."* (Genesis 26:18-21).

An Arab bought a well from a Jew. The next day, while on his way to market, he met the Jew who told him, "Brother Patel, I sold the well to you, but I did not sell the water, so if you use the water, you will have to pay extra for it."

The Arab replied, "I was just planning to come over to your place and ask you to empty the water, and if you don't, then you will have to pay me rent for your water staying in my well."

Sounds like someone could have used the peacemaking spirit of Isaac! When the herdsmen of Gerar wanted to argue about the two wells he had just dug, Isaac simply *“moved from there and dug another well.”* (Genesis 26:22).

There’s a part of us that wants to say that wasn’t right. Isaac should have insisted on keeping his first two wells. He dug them. They belonged to him. They were his by right. But Isaac understood something that we are sometimes slow to understand - that God often expects us to give up our “rights” in the name of peace.

As a result, we have trouble understanding how to apply Jesus’s command, *“If anyone would sue you and take your tunic, let him have your cloak as well.”* (Matthew 5:40). That goes against our human nature. We want to fight for what is rightfully ours. And the more precious the item is to us, the harder we will fight. We don’t want to be seen as a “doormat” and we feel the need to stand up for ourselves if we are not being treated fairly.

Meanwhile, Isaac simply *“moved from there and dug another well.”* (Genesis 26:22). No fighting, no arguing. He said, “It’s mine, but you can have it.” And, in the process, Isaac lived out one of the Beatitudes of Jesus, setting a great example for us:

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.”
(Matthew 5:9)

– Alan Smith

Building A Bridge To God

Adulteresses, do you not know that friend of the world is enemy of God? Therefore, whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. James 4:4

If someone insisted that we were enemies of God, we would probably object. We don't wish to be identified as enemies of God, but in fact many leave His camp to join the enemy. When we become a friend of the world, we create a division between us and God. The lusts of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life, can drag us away from Him. How can we get back to being a friend of God? Jesus did the work for us when He died on the cross for our sins. The cross literally built a

bridge over the chasm that separates us. Romans five should be a great comfort to us trying to get out of the enemy camp. It tells us that Christ died for us while we were yet enemies, so we could be reconciled to God. When reconciled, we can glorify God since we are saved by the life and death of Christ. We all sin and become enemies eventually. Let's be thankful Jesus already paved the road back in advance. Let's take that road with boldness and joy.

– Unknown

We have the service at the Manor on March 15.

Reminder



Save the evening of Saturday, March 21, 2020
for our annual “***Sweetheart Banquet.***”

Earlier on March 21st:

Lady's Day at the Lakeside Church of Christ

*** We have the service at the Manor next Sunday
March 15 - 2:30 p.m.**

**Spring Sing ... April 24, 2020 ... 7-8:30 p.m.
Clinton Church of Christ .. 5450 Evans rd., Clinton**

**Lady's Day .. “*Do you have 20/20 Vision?*”
April 25, 2020 .. Registration 9:00 10-2:00 p.m.
Lake Land Church of Christ .. Rt. 45, Mattoon, IL**

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: Gum, bubble gum, Pop Tarts, (*any flavor but strawberry favorite*), Fruit snacks, Fruit by the Foot, Gushers

Reading : *Matthew 5: 3-9, 38-42 ; James 3: 13-18*

NEXT WEEK : (March 15, 2020)

Song Leader : **Tim**

Scripture Reader : **Bob**

Table & Announcements : **Ron**

Prayer List : .

Madonna Nichols : As was announced last week, Madonna's chemo port became infected. The antibiotics were unable to eliminate the infection so Madonna was admitted in the hospital and eventually released, but she had to return for surgery to remove her chemo port. This is serious; she needs prayer.

Colin Kinkleaar. No update .. But at last report Colin had a long way to go, but he is making strides toward his recovery.

Kathy Minser : The sister of the Reynolds is improving, but has a long way to go.

Debbie Adams: Though she has been released from the hospital, the sister of Terry Perry has a long road to recovery from the broken bones and surgeries.

Brenda Stevens: Brenda had to cancel her appointment with her eye specialist in Indianapolis. Next available appointment is in May. Meanwhile, Brenda is confronted with pain issues.

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

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

Others with ongoing issues :

Doris Faulkner : Rm. 603 in Alzheimer's unit at the Manor.

Madonna : Her biweekly chemo will continue indefinitely.

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing painful back issues.

Ruby Bradd : 3 yr. old fighting reoccurring cancer

Glenda Hyneman : Multiple recurring issues, some serious

Dan Luidhardt : Wayne's friend has severe kidney failure due to diabetes. May soon receive artificial kidneys

*** 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.*

Ya'll Come !

Schedule of Services :

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

Sunday Evening : Worship 6:00 p.m.

