

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

December 27, 2020

Rear-View Mirrors

When learning to drive a car, one of the challenges is learning to use and trust your rear-view and side-view mirrors. Consider the size of your rear-view mirror compared to the windshield. Obviously, it's more important to see where you are going than where you have been. Yet, even though they are small and limited in what they reflect, these mirrors are invaluable to the complete driving experience. In addition to importance for safe driving, mirrors help with parallel parking, passing, backing, towing, putting on make-up, etc.

I thought of rear-view mirrors and their functions as the new year is approaching. Looking back to where we have been and what we have done has immense value in helping us navigate the future. Jesus told the Twelve, *"I have told you this, so that when the time comes you will remember that I warned you"* (John 16.4). God had given us the capacity to reflect on the past through our memories (*and this time of the year our memories are given a workout*). What we "see" can help us stay the course, make constructive changes, and/or warn us of dangers around us.

So, it's important that we check our "rear-view" memories of the past from time to time throughout the year. Paul instructed the Corinthians to *"examine yourselves ... test yourselves"* to

make sure faith was still alive in them (*2 Cor. 13.5*). Peter wrote a second letter to God's people "*to stimulate you to wholesome thinking*" and to "*recall the words spoken in the past by the holy prophets*" (*2 Peter 3.1-2*). It's also important to "*remember His wonderful deeds which He has done*" (*1 Chron. 16.12*).

It would be foolish for drivers to check their mirrors only to ignore what they saw when passing or backing or parking. How much more foolish is it to remember the past or remember God's word and then remain unaffected by it? James said we will miss out on God's blessings if we forget what we see when we look at ourselves in God's mirror (*James 1.22-25*).

As we look forward to a new year, we all hope for the best year yet. No matter how good the past year was, we all desire the new year to be better than the last one. Checking our rear-view mirrors of memory and scripture will enable us to avoid the mistakes of the past and to make adjustments for a better future. Even the best of us needs to sharpen our focus on living for God. Even the best of us needs to deal with our sins. Even the best of us needs to strengthen our faith. Even the best of us needs to press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus (*Phil. 3.14*). Rear-view mirrors help us do that.

— Joe Chesser

Get Started and Stay With It

We will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

— *Galatians 6:9*

Here are two cold, hard facts:

- 1) You never finish what you never start.
- 2) You never finish what you start if you stop.

Most everyone I know has considered writing a book ... and most everyone I know has never written one.

Most everyone I know plans to get serious about exercising ... and most everyone I know has started; then stopped.

Most everyone I know is flawed ... and most everyone I know is fabulous! They just need a little push and a lot of self-discipline.

Here's a good place to start: say "Yes" to what you think God wants you to do and be.

A year from now what do you want to have done?

A year from now who do you want to be?

Get started ... and stay with it.

– Joes Barnett



Rejoice! It was a cold and windy day on the plains when Jolene Ann Niehls arrived on Tuesday, December 22, 2020 at 6:29 pm. She weighed in at a slight 7lbs.14oz. She is a tall girl, 21.5 inches long at birth. Everyone is doing fine, even J.J., but

grandma Niehls can hardly wait to be rocking little Jolene in her arms. The plan was to be home for Christmas, but in today's climate, it will be a while before she is exposed to the public. Until then, we welcome her into the family of God that assembles in Shelbyville. May God bless her with a strong faith, a long and healthy life and with an ocean of love in which to surf through life.

NEXT WEEK : (January 3, 2020)

Song Leader : Delmar

Scripture Reader : J.J.

Table & Announcements : Greg

Birthdays : J.J. January 1
Larry January 2

Prayer List :

Susan Bowyer : no update .. Susan continues to struggle with some of her health issues, but she is now showing significant improvement in that she can walk with her walker and no other assistance. Many thanks for the prayers, cards, etc.

Doris Bartanen : No update ... Doris remains in Shelbyville Rehabilitation & Health. Her improvements have been incremental, but overall, she seems to be a little stronger physically though she does seem increasingly confused at times.

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

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

Others with ongoing issues :

Madonna Nichols : Madonna continues to receive chemo every other week to treat her liver cancer.

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Jerry Rankin : Jerry has multiple serious ongoing issues.

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing painful back issues.

Debbie Adams : Lengthy recovery from severe car accident

Susan Bales : Rosanne's mother is growing progressively weaker. Even a few steps are difficult and her mind is slipping

Tim Gaddis : The son of Deloris remains frustrated that he must be in the Prairie Rose Rehabilitation Center in Pana w/o visitors

*** 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.

