

Life In The Body

News and Notes for the :
Shelbyville
Church of Christ

December 6, 2020

True Spiritual Hope

On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland, igniting the second global conflict of the 20th century. It was six years and one day later, on September 2, 1945, that the Japanese delegation formally signed the instrument of surrender on board the USS Missouri, marking the official end of World War II. It is estimated that WWII claimed the lives of 60-80 million people. Certainly, many in our country had felt the pain of war throughout the previous years. Heavy burdens, trials, toils and tears were part of everyday life for many during this time. Perhaps the pain and uncertainty they experienced came to be considered the new normal.

That same year, 1945, there was a new hymn written that was titled, "Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All". The words were written by W. Oliver Cooper. The melody was arranged by Minzo C. Jones. While this song used to be sung more often, we still sing it from time to time today. I grew up singing this song. I can remember sitting beside my grandma and hearing her sing this song with her country twang soprano voice. Sitting beside her, I could tell she believed what she sang.

As was the case during the in the early 1940's, many today are gripped by the uncertainty of what tomorrow may hold. Between the pandemic and civil unrest that is rampant in our coun-

try, many are wrestling with anxiety in a way that is crippling. How sad this truly is. But because of God's love and the redemptive work of Christ, we have an eternal home, a house not made with hands. While we may suffer in this life, my prayer is that we will always remember, Heaven will surely be worth it all!

— Keith Harris

“I maintain that people – truly born-again, genuinely Christian people – often do not pray simply because they do not feel like it. And the reason they don't feel like praying is that when they do pray, they tend to say the same old things about the same old things.”

— Donald S. Whitney, *Praying the Bible*

Housetop Prayers

The next day, as they were on their journey and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. — Acts 10

The tops of houses were used in the age of the book of Acts as a place of worship...some would use the tops of houses for idolatrous worship, however, some would also use theirs for worship to the one true God! One may presume to think that this would be an extremely open and public place so that those praying would be seen by many, however, it is just the opposite. The walls that would surround the flat rooftops of ancient homes would provide more privacy and singularity than any other location someone may seek to find. One reason the Jews in particular would have used the housetop as place of prayer would be so that they may even more clearly look in the direction of the temple located in Jerusalem.

Regardless of the tradition, the ritual, or the habit that revolves around the location of your prayer life, look to the purpose of housetop prayers and seek to mirror this journey to a more intimate and intentional conversational time with God today! Do you have a “housetop” place of prayer? Not by finding a ladder and braving shingles to become closer to God (although this may lead one to meet God sooner)! What the Bible, rather, is reminding us is to find that place you may go to every day

that is quiet, isolated from the public's eye, and clear of distractions, and have a focused and meaningful talk with our Creator! For Peter, these times of singularity with God were vital to his strength, courage, and success of his ministry as an Apostle for God! He knew it could not be a weekly, but a daily practice for the fears, worries, challenges, and temptations that are held within a single day that only God could control. Find your "housetop" today and let God speak life into your should by talking with Him as your Father!

— *Spencer Cromwell*

“WORK as if you were to live 100 years. Pray as if you were to die tomorrow.”

— *Benjamin Franklin*

NEXT WEEK : (December 13, 2020)

Song Leader : Tim

Scripture Reader : Jonathan

Table & Announcements : Greg

Reading : Psalms #145: 1-7 ; Psalms #148: 1-14

When you make an announcement from your pew, please speak loudly so the one making the announcements can hear and repeat it.

Prayer List :

Susan Bowyer : Susan continues to struggle with some of her health issues, but she is at home now under the tender care of Tim. There are visiting nurses and therapists who visit her on a regular basis.

Mykala Nichols : Mykata had a real scare. Her car was hit by a speeding semi as she was turning. She was transported to St. Anthony's hospital in Effingham where she was treated and

observed for a while before being released. She had some dis-orientation, and a painful neck, but she appears to be okay other than a cut on her ear. To make sure she is okay, they will be observing her at home for a few days.

Beth Niehls : As she is on the home stretch we are all joining the Niehls family in praying that Miss Beth will have no difficulties in her pregnancy and that she will deliver a healthy baby without complications and in time to be a tax deduction for 2020.

Scott Perry : Terry's husband, Scott, is recovering from covid at home so she is in quarantine.

Mia Stevens : Bob & Brenda's granddaughter (in Calf.) has been running a very high fever. They got the fever down, but they are still running tests trying to diagnosis her problem.

Fay Julius : The 91 year old mother of Ron was exposed to the Wuhan virus and was showing the symptom of extreme fatigue to the point she is temporarily staying with Ron's sister in Effingham. Thankfully, Fay's covid test came back negative. The challenge now is to find out the source of her symptoms.

Doris Bartanen : Doris remains in Shelbyville Rehabilitation & Health where she continues to receive medication for a severe infection and rehabilitation to enable her to walk, but her future circumstances are in question. MUCH prayer needed.

Those with ongoing need of prayer :

Those with age related issues :

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

Others with ongoing issues :

Doris Faulkner : Rm. 603 in Alzheimer's unit at the Manor and has now been diagnosed with the Wuhan Virus, but Patty says she has a mild case of the virus.

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

Butch Reynolds : Heart condition and back issues

Kathy Minser : The sister of the Reynolds is not in great shape. She has good and bad days and is on hospice care.

Brenda Stevens : Ongoing painful back issues.

Jerry Rankin : Jerry has multiple serious ongoing 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 remain 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.



