

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
abehel@ix.netcom.com

Vol. XVII. No. 40

October 6, 2013

Looking To Jesus

Life's challenges are often very difficult. Broken relationships, devastating losses, uncertain futures...all hit very hard and leave us with increased anxiety and reduced resources to handle the demands we face. Fear sets in and we lose heart. Faith fades and doubts multiply. Where is God when it hurts?

Many of my patients struggle with issues too deep for words. Often there is no easy solution...no apparent light at the end of the tunnel. They have trouble finding a solid path, or a constant anchor for their hearts and lives. I ask myself, "What needs to happen? What do they need that's missing?"

At times like these I remember a verse in Hebrews 12:2-3 and the encouragement it gives: "looking to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith....consider Him...so that you may not grow weary and lose heart." Where do you go if you don't have faith, if there is no model or clear example to follow?

The apostle Paul tells that if we keep looking at Jesus we will be transformed into His likeness from one degree of glory to another (2 Corinthians 3:18). He is the model we can trust. He is our model for healthy relationships, for solving life's problems, dealing with difficult situations and hostile people. He is a dependable guide for living, for forgiveness and reconciliation.

We look to Him for eternal salvation, but He also provides counsel and support for the current life. He is Lord of the present as well as the future. In Him we find spiritual strength to live triumphantly among discouraged and defeated people. The anchor He supplies holds firm in every storm.

— Al Behel

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR BIBLES: A total of \$5300 has been collected for Bibles for the Ukraine with more coming in. You can still give.

Elder Contact for Month: Dan Elkins at 865-548-9852

Origins Seminar Series

Dr. Brad Harrub is with us this weekend for a Creation/Evolution seminar. Brad is a scientist who specializes in Christian apologetics. He holds a Ph. D. in Anatomy and Neurobiology from the University of Tennessee and is the Executive Director of Focus Press and Co-Editor of *Think Magazine*. The seminar continues through Sunday afternoon with the following topics being discussed.



Friday—7 p.m.—Atheism's Attack on America

Saturday—6 p.m.—Can We Prove God Exists?
Was Darwin Wrong?

Sunday—9:30 a.m.—Jesus on Trial in 2013

10:30 a.m.—Faith for Life

1:30 p.m.—Value of Human Life

CDs/DVDs are available upon request.

Luncheon: Between the a.m. worship and afternoon seminar everyone is invited to a free lunch in our fellowship hall. Details will be given during the morning worship hour.

Sunday Evening Worship: We will meet again at 6 p.m. tonight. Al will present some practical ideas for using what we have learned this weekend.

Interpreter for deaf and hearing impaired available for AM and PM worship

Our Known Sick

Dez Anderson—multiple health issues, including MS

Jan Messick—new scan shows no return of cancer!

Joyce Keyser—still having difficulty with her knee.

Andrea Weddington—reports show her cancer free!

Bill England—is battling cancer. He is currently receiving oral chemotherapy. We pray for positive results for our brother.

Debby Bryan—Cancer; **Johnny Bryan**—health issues.

Clara Mayberry—broken arm suffered in a recent fall.

Kathy May recovering at home in Baxter. You can send her a card at P.O. Box 465, Baxter, TN 38544-0463.

Larry Valentine—recovering from a fall and broken ankle. Good to see him back with us.

Heather Cox—unborn child-heart issues. Surgery will be required.

Jean Compton suffered a heart attack this week and had to have a stent installed. She is now at home.

Friends and Family

Christopher Howell (grandson of the Littletons-spinal cord injuries suffered in automobile accident), **Arania Blount** (Brenda Scott's sister)-cancer markers have increased, **Betty Langdon** (Ginny Cliett's sister—mental confusion issues), **Robin McCollum and Peggy McCollum** (Al's nieces—both battling cancer), **Shelby Daniels** (medical technologist in clinic with Al—recovering from brain surgery), **Libby and Larry Gilley** (friends of Dwight Grizzell—she has breast cancer); Sue Mercer's sister, **Connie Browning**, is being treated for breast cancer; Beverly Finnell's grandson, **Liam Finnell**, is having health issues; **Sara Teel**, daughter of Robin Roberts, is dealing with several health issues; Rick Cliett's 90 year old aunt **Doris Chambers** is recovering from multiple broken bones in her leg suffered from a fall while getting ready for church in Texas; Michael Cliett's girlfriend's mother, **Paula Ramos**, suffering from breast cancer; Tom Elkins' sister-in-law, **Joyce Elkins**, cancer surgery & auto accident. Patty Adair's son-in-law's mother, **Robin Bell**, very serious surgery for ruptured blood vessels in her stomach; **Roy Lafollette**, father of Scott, Seth, and Sonja, recovering from triple bypass surgery; **Bradley Rand**, friend of Steven Bryant, seriously injured in auto accident.

Ladies Bible Class: First and Third Tuesdays at 10 a.m.

Adult Bible Class

All classes above 4th grade meet in auditorium for seminar with Brad Harrub.

Rise & Shine: Sundays, 9:15

School Clothing Drive

Mark checks "School Clothing" & leave at sound booth.

Times of Services

Sunday A.M.

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Sunday P.M. 6:00 PM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

Building Fund

Loan balance as of 10/01/13 is **\$1,184,923.82**. Extra contributions to reduce the loan debt are needed and appreciated. Envelopes are available in the pew.

Nursery

Located across main foyer. Closed circuit TV allows viewing and participation in worship.

CDs and DVDs of Sermons are available free at sound booth. Also available on the website at: www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com.