

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

Al Behel, Minister
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January 05, 2014

Never Mind, Lord

Joe Smith was nailing shingles on his two story house on a damp, misty Saturday afternoon. While walking the gable his feet slipped out from under him. Headed for certain death or serious injury, he called out in desperation, "God, save me!" Immediately his pants caught on a loose nail and his slide was halted. With great relief Joe lifted his eyes upward and said, "Never mind, Lord. The nail caught me."

God is often nothing more than Someone we call on when we are in trouble. When things are going well we don't think we need Him. When problems seem insurmountable, though, we want Him right there by our side. Unexpected crises are met with handy expectations that God should rush in and take care of everything.

While God is certainly the One we can call on when everyone else lets us down, He expects us to trust Him all the time. Maybe our problem is that we trust ourselves more than we trust God...until major tragedy hits and we are totally helpless. As soon as we are in control again we dismiss Him and take over ourselves.

The reality is that our entire lives are in a crisis with potential consequences that are more severe than Joe's fall. It is a crisis in "slow motion," so we can easily forget the urgency of seeking God's help. We have limited and temporary control over our circumstances. The stable elements can easily become unstable. The nails that catch us may not hold.

Our comfort is not in living trouble-free lives, but in maintaining continual fellowship with our Father whose power is limitless, whose love never ends. His protective arm never is ever weakened, His watchful eye is never closed. Our God is constantly by our side.

We are told, "don't stop praying", and to "give thanks in all circumstances" (I Thessalonians 5:17,18). God wants that kind of communication with us. He wants to hear from us in the good times and in the bad times. Our need for Him is just as great when things are going well as when we face the crises of life. Let's keep in touch with Him.

—Al Behel

Other News/Prayer Requests:

Linda Valentine is in LeConte, Rm. 332, with pneumonia. She was taken to the hospital Friday night.

Doug Hill was released from the hospital on Saturday night. He had an infection in his face following removal of a spot on his face.

Herman Byrne will go back to Vanderbilt on January 13 for surgery to remove a tumor from his salivary gland.

Al's sister, **Liz Warpula**, has been diagnosed with breast cancer and is scheduled for surgery on January 17 at UAB. Al's sister-in-law, **Jean Behel**, has started receiving hospice care. Her condition is rapidly deteriorating. His brother, Gilbert, preaches in Alabama.

Note: Please notify Al if any names of sick need to be removed from announcements

Wednesday Night: Guest speaker-Jerry Hogg, report on South Africa.

Rick Cliett—it has been so good having Rick home for a few weeks. He returns to Malaysia on Friday. We will miss him and look forward to his coming home to stay. We pray for him as he is away from us.

Elder Contact for Month: Dan Elkins, Phone No. 1-865-548-9852

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"Living To Please God (Goals for 2014)", No. 4; P.M.—Talking With Others About Jesus, No. 8

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

Our Known Sick

Dez Anderson—is in Fort Sanders Regional with a blood clot in her heart and bleeding from an artery into her stomach. It appears that the bleeding may have stopped. Surgery is not advised and she is being treated with medication only. Please NO visits at this time and NO flowers because of her compromised immune system.

Bill England—still battling cancer and artery problems in his leg.

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

Clara Mayberry—broken arm suffered in a recent fall.

Kathy May has been hospitalized again this week in Cookeville with unstable blood pressures. You can send her a card at P.O. Box 465, Baxter, TN 38544-0463.

Larry Valentine has been diagnosed with a malignant tumor in his left lung. He had a PET scan on Thursday and will receive the results next Thursday. Treatment will be determined then.

Wyatt Cox, newborn infant of Heather and Alan Cox, is continuing to improve following heart surgery. Their home address is: 3334 Oma Lee Dr., Sevierville, TN 37876.

Kenny Jones is in Pigeon Forge Care & Rehab Center, Rm. 105B for rehab following a fall in which he suffered a head injury.

John Jenkins—recovering from knee surgery.

Rachel Bailey—being treated for Graves disease.

Friends and Family

Christopher Howell (grandson of the Littletons-spinal cord injuries suffered in automobile accident). **Libby Gilley** (friend of Dwights) has breast cancer and it has spread to other organs. Please pray for Libby and her husband, Barry. **Arania Blount** (Brenda Scott's sister)—battling cancer. **Betty Langdon** (Ginny Cliett's sister—hospice has been called in; her condition is very grave). **Robin McCollum and Peggy McCollum** (Al's nieces—both battling cancer). Sue Mercer's sister, **Connie Browning**, is being treated for breast cancer; Beverly Finnell's grandson, **Liam Finnell**, is having 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**, report following cancer surgery is encouraging; Rick Cliett's brother, **Ken Cliett**, is battling Ascites and kidney failure; **Mark Baker**, brother-in-law of Coleen Thomason, dealing with complications from abnormal blood vessels in the brain.

Adult Bible Class

"Rejoicing In The Lord"

A Study in Philipians

Rise & Shine: Sundays, 9:15

Member Phone List

Available at the Sound Booth for members only.

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 12/01/13 is **\$1,172,708.72**. 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.