

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Don't Give A Place To The Devil

"...and give no opportunity to the devil" (Ephesians 4:29)

Would you invite Satan into your home to live with you and your family? Of course not! The thought is preposterous. Still, many of us provide an opportunity for him to live in our hearts. The Greek word for "opportunity" in this passage can be translated as "place", which suggests a foothold or occasion for Satan to work in us. Would any of us willingly surrender a part of our hearts to him?

There are many ways to let Satan into our hearts. Once inside he tries desperately to take up residence and control our thoughts, attitudes, and actions. Perhaps the easiest way for him to gain access is through our emotional system. In the verses surrounding the text above Paul urges us to be careful about *anger, greed, bitterness, and corrupt speech*. Satan can quickly take over when we become resentful and hostile toward others.

Satan is determined to win. His war is with God but we are the battlefield. He wants a place in our hearts. Even a temporary place. There he launches his assaults from the inside out. He works through our emotions to control our actions and our words. If he can feed our hurt feelings, our resentful attitudes, our selfish motivations, he can take control of our hearts.

Why does he want a place inside us? Why not be content to put obstacles in our way, to work in the environment around us? Why does he want our hearts? Because Satan knows that if he can control our hearts he can control our lives, undermine our commitment to God, and put us at odds with one another. He is an expert at breaking relationships and diverting us from our goals. If we provide him an open door he moves in completely.

May we never allow this deadly enemy a place in our hearts. The only effective prevention is to let God put His Spirit inside us, fill us with Himself, and to surrender every thought, word, and action to His control. Then, Satan has no dwelling place within us.

—Al Behel

Other News/Prayer Requests:

Sympathy: To Ginny Cliett in the death of her sister, **Betty Langdon**, who passed away on Tuesday, January 7. A memorial service is planned for January 18 in Pasadena, TX. Ginny will leave on Friday.

Linda Valentine is recuperating at home from pneumonia after spending several days in the hospital.

Doug Hill is now at home and is recuperating from cellulitis.

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.

Jerry Ellison, Brenda Scott's brother-in-law, failing lungs with no further treatment available.

Dan Elkin's sister, Lorna, producing too much blood.

Jimmy Vance, knee surgery in Nashville on Jan. 15.

Paul Huston, son-in-law of Gary and Priscilla Dick, deployed to Egypt for one year. Prayers appreciated. See Priscilla or Gary for contact information.

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

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"Jesus Christ, No Ordinary Man"; 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 recuperating at home from a blood clot in her heart and bleeding from an artery into her stomach. It appears that the bleeding has stopped. 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.

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

Clara Mayberry—broken arm suffered in a recent fall.

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

Larry Valentine has been diagnosed with lung cancer. He is scheduled to see a surgeon this week to determine when surgery will be and the treatment needed after surgery.

Deb Elkins has had some complications with blood loss following her knee surgery this week at LeConte. She required two pints of blood. She is in Rm. 338, but hopes to be released today.

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. He expects to be released January 17.

Friends and Family

Christopher Howell (grandson of the Littletons—spinal cord injuries suffered in automobile accident). Dwight Grizzell's friend, **Libby Gilley**, undergoing experimental treatment at Vanderbilt for metastasized breast cancer. Pray for her and husband Barry. **Arania Blount** (Brenda Scott's sister)—battling cancer. **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; Michael Cliett's fiancé'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.

Ladies Bible Study—Tuesday, January 21 at 10 a.m.—Fellowship Hall. Last class in this series—stay tuned for more!

Adult Bible Class

"Rejoicing In The Lord"

A Study in Philippians

Rise & Shine: Sundays, 9:15

Phone List for Members

Pick up at the Sound Booth window.

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 01/01/14 is **\$1,166,300.90**. 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.