

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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March 09, 2014

Kidney Disease

That's right. It was kidney disease that caused King Herod to be so mean and to order that all the innocent male infants under two years of age be killed, hoping to destroy the challenger to his throne. At least, that's what some scientists have concluded.

In a recent discovery medical researchers have decided that King Herod died of some form of kidney disease which caused him to become mentally ill, and thus to have a strong tendency to violence and ruthlessness.

Have you ever wondered if anyone is really responsible for his or her actions anymore? We can account for abusive parents because they were not nurtured as children themselves. Thieves and robbers are victims of bad backgrounds, and rapists are just people who never learned to deal with their anger.

We have developed excuses for rudeness and disruptive behaviors, which place blame on biochemistry or poor genes. Sitting in my office one day a young boy explained his actions by saying, "I hit him back because he hit me back after I hit him."

While physical illnesses and mental illness can have a profound effect on human behavior, it sometimes appears that we have gone "off the deep end" looking for excuses for our actions. We can justify hatred because we were inadequately loved. We are selfish because we were overindulged on the one hand, or deprived on the other. We are substance abusers, whether legal or illegal, because life's stresses have activated our genetic propensity to become chemically dependent.

We have learned to avoid responsibility for spiritual involvement because we can't face the crowds or the rejection of others. We excuse our lack of spiritual development because no one has taken an interest in us and encouraged us to grow.

Whatever happened to personal responsibility? Is no one accountable for their actions? If Herod killed innocent babies because of a kidney disease, could it be that the crowd who participated in the crucifixion of Jesus did so because they were socially, economically, and educationally deprived?

God has always held man responsible for his actions. Paul reminded the Corinthian church we would all give an account of our actions to God on the final Day of Judgment.

Any person who is competent to make decisions about careers, indebtedness, contracts, and relationships is competent to stand accountable before God. Any person who has the ability to make a rational choice is capable of assuming responsibility for those choices.

—Al Behel

Other News:

Pot Luck Dinner Tonight—following evening worship. Just bring lots of good food and enjoy the fellowship.

Bottles of Love: continues through next Sunday, March 16.

Mission Opportunity: Former members, **Julie and Jenna Ogle**, plan to participate in a medical evangelism project in Diiamba, Nicaragua on June 13-21. **Savanna Smallwood** (who was with us at age 10 and sang at Country Tonight) plans to participate in a mission trip to Malawi, Central Africa in July. They have asked for assistance. If you would like to help, please give your donation to one of the elders or to Al. You may write a check to the GSM church.

Elder Contact for Month: Marc Hayes. Phone No. 1-731-608-4148

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"Jesus Christ, No Ordinary Man, No. 9— Keep Your House Clean"; P.M.— "Where Do We Go From Here?"(Continued)

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

Our Known Sick

Dez Anderson—is home but is having a lot of pain. Dez suffers from many health conditions. She has also been battling blood clots and internal bleeding and has required several units of blood.

Ron Sommerville is recuperating at home following back surgery. He was with us last Sunday morning.

Bill England—his cancer markers are low. We rejoice with him.

Debby 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—chemo begins March 24 - Linda's nodule on kidney was nothing of concern.

Deb Elkins—recovering from some post-surgical complications.

Wyatt Cox, infant son of Heather and Alan Cox—heart cath on Wednesday and surgery March 27. Their home address is: 3334 Oma Lee Dr., Sevierville, TN 37876.

Friends and Family

Christopher Howell (grandson of the Littletons—spinal cord injuries suffered in automobile accident). Dwight Grizzell's friend, **Libby Gilley**, has discontinued all cancer treatment and is receiving hospice at home. 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; 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. Leah's neighbor's (Miss Rose) son—in-law, **Jimmy Lee**, is being treated for brain cancer. **Madison Stanley**, seven year old granddaughter of the Cliett's friends, stage 3 cancer—massive tumor removed, chemo begins this week.

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

Al's brother, Tom Behel, is receiving rehab at home in Alabama following hip surgery and a possible stroke which left him paralyzed in his throat.

Skip Stewart's brother, Pete, had open heart surgery Thursday

Sue Hayes' sister, Joyce - she fell and broke her hip

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

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

Sunday Adult Bible Study

"Rejoicing In the Lord"

A Study in Philippians

Rise & Shine: Sundays, 9:15

LADIES CLASS

1st and 3rd Tuesdays. Theme:

"Apples of Gold"

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 03/01/14 is **\$1,154,725.22**. 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.