

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Without Him I Would Be Nothing

I have often wondered what life would be like if God treated us the way we treat Him. If He just got busy and forgot to take care of the details that are essential in meeting our needs. I wonder if God stopped caring if life would be worth living.

The apostle Paul stated an obvious truth, "In Him we live and move and have our existence." (Acts 17: 28). Without, God we don't exist. Without Him, we wouldn't want to exist. And if God just decided to go on strike or to give to us in direct proportion to our gifts to Him our lives would be devastated. What would life be without Him?

Well, if He forgot about us the sun wouldn't shine to warm the earth, the moon would darken in the sky and the oceans would run dry. The oxygen would be cut off, the rains stop, and disease would inflict unimaginable horror upon us. If God stopped caring hatred would fill every heart, no prayers would be answered, and we would soon destroy each other.

But He does care! And He doesn't treat us the way we treat Him. His love is constant and unrelenting. He makes His sun shine on the righteous and the unrighteous. He doesn't shut off the oxygen supply even when we complain or lift our voices to curse His name. He continues to give gifts to meet our physical needs although we reject His spiritual gifts to meet the needs of our souls.

I'm glad God is bigger than I am. I'm glad He doesn't react in anger when I fail or when I ignore His instructions. I'm glad He is always steady and dependable, and that He always loves me. His love never fails or gives up. He keeps giving and giving...even when I keep taking and taking.

The Passion of Christ shows how deeply He loves. His death is the ultimate demonstration of how much He wants our salvation. The hatred of man runs deep, but the love of God runs deeper. The greed of man is met with grace that is lavished upon us, an outpouring of mercy and forgiveness. But that grace cannot be taken for granted. It calls us to personal death to sin...it calls us to respond by putting God first and not as an afterthought. Then, and only then, will God come and dwell within us. Then He will give us Himself.

— Al Behel

Other News/Sick:

Shawn Molloy, frequent visitor and local optometrist, is now at home following hip surgery and 4 weeks of hospitalization. His wife's name is Darlene. Their home address which is 339 Happy Trails Way, Sevierville, TN 37862.

Ray and Martha Slate: We will miss Ray and Martha as they have recently moved to Crossville. Their years of service and leadership to the GSM congregation endeared them to our hearts and they will be greatly missed. Their contributions are too numerous to name. They provided special leadership in missions and in teaching. Whenever there was a need or opportunity to serve you could count on them to be at the front. As a congregation we honor and thank them. Their current address is 185 Trentwood, Crossville, TN. 38558.

Ladies Bible Study—resumes on Tuesday, Sept. 16 with a brand new set of lessons—"Like Mother, Like Daughter." Plan to join us at 10 a.m. that day for a good study and great fellowship. See Sue Hayes for a copy of the lessons.

Elder Contact for Month: Jim Anderson, Phone No. 924-1067

Sermon Topics: A.M.—"Do You Know God?"; P.M.—Our Youth Will Lead Our Worship

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

Our Known Sick

Dez Anderson—It was so good to see Dez back with us in worship. She continues to battle multiple health issues and her activity level is very limited. Keep praying...God is listening and answering.

Ron Sommerville is still struggling with pain issues.

Sheryle Elkins has been diagnosed with Adenocarcinoma (lung cancer). She began chemotherapy and radiation treatment last week. Please pray that God will shower His grace on Dan and Sheryle and grant healing to her.

Howard and Tina Yates are home again after hiking another 122 miles on the AT in New Hampshire. Tina has an injured knee which needs rest and TLC, but Howard has a chipped elbow and torn tendon (injury from local hike in July), and he will have surgery on Tuesday.

Kenny Jones was in Le Conte Medical Center where it was determined he did not suffer a stroke. He is now in rehab and doing well.

Clara Mayberry—still confined to home.

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

Larry Valentine—although he is continuing to improve following removal of a cancerous lung, hasn't been feeling well recently

Wyatt Cox, recovering well from corrective surgery on August 25.

Angie Daimwood—Room 136 at WellSpring, the new assisted living facility near Wellington Place and LeConte Medical Center.

Friends and Family

Jim Smith, brother of Shirley Harmon, continues to improve after being critically injured in a fall from his attic onto concrete.

Christopher Howell-grandson of the Littletons-spinal cord injuries.

Robin McCollum and Peggy McCollum (Al's nieces-battling cancer). Sue Mercer's sister, **Connie Browning**, breast cancer.

Dot Willis, Al's first cousin passed away in Alabama.

Rick Cliett's brother, **Ken Cliett**, is battling Ascites and kidney failure. He is in a nursing facility close to his children.

Leah's neighbor's (Miss Rose) son—in-law, **Jimmy Lee**, is being treated for brain cancer.

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

Al's brother, Tom Behel, is improving significantly. He is now able to eat, walk with minimal assistance. His speech is still limited.

Madison Stanley, seven year old granddaughter of friends of the Clietts -stage 4 cancer—undergoing aggressive chemo and radiation.

Gayle Raines, a frequent visitor and minister from the Woodbury area, passed away recently. Our prayers are with his family.

Raja Vijay Kumar Vundurthi (India missionary) reports that his father is improving from GB Syndrome. Keep praying for him.

Sunday Bible Study

Colossians

Rise & Shine: Sundays, 9:15

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

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 08/05/14 is **\$1,131,329.64**. 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.