

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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The Old Rugged Cross

In response to bitter ridicule received during a revival meeting in 1912, Evangelist George Bennard penned the first verse of the now popular hymn, "The Old Rugged Cross." Those words read,

*"On a hill far away stood an old rugged cross,
The emblem of suff'ring and shame;
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain."*

The cross of Jesus was rugged. It was not some polished, finely crafted piece of wood which could adorn the sanctuary of some stained-glass, multi-million dollar church edifice. It wouldn't fit in with the décor of the average American religious icons or symbolism.

The cross of Jesus can't be melted into a 14 karat gold necklace to accentuate the soft and beautiful features of a professing Christian. It is blood stained and scarred. It is a reminder of a painful death.

That cross, which stood on a hill far away as an emblem of suffering and shame, stands today in the hearts of the followers of Jesus as a symbol of victory over sin and death. It pierces through the darkness of many acts of sinful rebellion and becomes a source of life to all who die there.

That cross commands us. It draws us to submission. It compels us to take up our own cross and follow Him. It demands full allegiance. There can be no division of heart, no partial response. It cannot be accepted incrementally...only with complete surrender.

With the beloved Paul, who followed all the way to the executioner's block, we must glory only in that cross and rejoice that we are considered worthy to bear it. Fear must not deter us, and greed must not detract us. We stand at the foot of His cross and receive His commission to preach the foolishness of that rugged cross to a sinful and dying world.

— Al Behel

Other News/Sick:

Sympathy: To Skip Stewart in the death of his brother, Paul, who passed away last week in Lisburn, Ohio. Keep Skip, Esther, and the family in your prayers.

Mariejane and Bryson are visiting family in the Philippines. Keep them in prayer as they are traveling and away from us.

Debbie Little, mother of one of Marti's students, is suffering from a brain aneurysm rupture. Marti visited with the family and Debbie is home and greatly improved. They are so thankful for the church's prayers and for the enormous number of cards they have received from you. They have no church affiliation and are tremendously moved. Their address is: Debbie, Randy, Michael, & Katie Little, 4152 Briggs Loop, Kodak, TN 37764. Please drop a note.

Tyler Behel, Al's nephew, has been re-deployed to Afghanistan. Prayers are requested for him and his wife and child as he is away.

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

Holiday Party: Our thanks to all who helped make this a great event for everyone.

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

Sermon Topics: A.M. - "The Greatest Of These, No. 3—It's Time To Grow Up!"; P.M. - Mark Haynes will speak. Al will be away.

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

Our Known Sick

-Dez Anderson— fell recently and suffered a lot of pain. She continues to battle multiple health issues and her activity level is very limited. Keep praying...God is listening and answering.

-Sheryle Elkins has completed chemotherapy and radiation for Adenocarcinoma (lung cancer). They received good news with the results of the CT scan. Her tumors have reduced 80%. A PET scan in three months should show if the treatments were successful. Please keep praying for our sister. Her address is: 1383 Lake Front Drive, Dandridge, TN 37725.

-Bill Green was back with us. We are happy he is better.

-Sue Mercer is recovering from surgery to remove a malignant kidney. She is at home and is expected to make a full recovery.

-Raelynn Bryant, newborn baby daughter of Steven and Taylor Bryant, is still hospitalized but is improving significantly.

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

-Pauline Swallow has not been feeling well. Keep her in prayer.

Friends and Family

-Ben Lachica, Mariejane's father, recovering from an apparent light stroke in the Philippines. Her mother, Marcie, just returned there.

-Mrs. Florence Tolliver is in Ft. Sanders Nursing Home, Rm 172. Her daughter, Rita Taylor from Kodak, has been visiting with us.

-Jim Dickson (he and Barbara have worked at Dollywood and worshipped with us several years) has a recurrence of lung cancer and is being treated with chemotherapy. Jim and Barbara live at 521 Green Hills Dr., Hattiesburg, MS 39402. Phone: 601-296-1547.

-Scottie Elkins, Tom and Deb's grandson, is still awaiting tests to determine if he has MS. Prayers are requested for him.

-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.

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

-Al's brother, Tom Behel, - fell recently and broke the femur in his below his (good) hip. He had surgery to install a rod in his femur and is now at home. He still is unable to converse orally from his stroke.

-Rosita Juan, visitor and mother of Rose Harrington (frequent visitor), is on dialysis and awaiting a kidney transplant. Prayers appreciated. Address is: 260 River Valley Circle, Lot 6, Sevierville, TN 37862.

Sunday Bible Study

Colossians

Rise & Shine: Sundays, 9:15

Ladies Bible Class

Meets on 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the Fellowship Hall. Next study Dec. 16 at 10 a.m.

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 12/04/14 is **\$1,107,602.13**. 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.