

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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“Down But Not Out”

Have you ever had the props knocked out from under you? Maybe it was a job termination, or some major disappointment, or some moral failure. You were tempted to give up and quit. Maybe you were struggling with anger or feelings of guilt. Sometimes the blows come from people you trusted and loved.

The apostle Paul talked about how we are sometimes knocked down but that we are not knocked out (II Corinthians 4:8). The attacks are hard to bear. The disappointments and failures are so heavy we feel we can never get up again. But, the battle is not over.

The reason we are not out is stated a few verses later, “...our inner nature is being renewed every day” (4:16). We can get up because deep inside of us we are not destroyed. The faith we trusted before is still there. The strength that kept us going for so long is still there. We may have stumbled over some sin in our lives or some obstacle from the outside...yet we can get up again.

The greatest servants have been broken. They have learned discipline through confronting the ugly parts of themselves. They have learned humility at the foot of the cross. They have learned that God didn’t give up and neither should they. They have learned that cleansing may come through tears of brokenness.

The Holy Spirit renews us through empowering our feeble efforts. He doesn’t let us stay down when we want to get up. He created new life in us once and He can do it again. No one needs to stay lost.

When you are knocked down don’t lie on the floor and groan about how unfair everyone is or how weak you are. Take hold of His hand and He will lift you up. He isn’t finished with you yet.

— Al Behel

Other News & Sick:

-Bill Valentine has been diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus. He will consult with his doctors to determine the best course of treatment, which will likely include chemotherapy and radiation. Please keep Bill and Gail in prayer. Fervent prayer by godly people works!

Sympathy: Ruth Byrne’s brother, Ernest Duncan, passed away Wednesday evening in Gallatin, TN. Our prayers are with Ruth, Herman, and family.

-Sympathy: Michael Jacob’s mother passed away a few days ago in Cape Town, South Africa. Michael and Gail are supported by the GSM church as missionaries in that city. Prayers are with the Jacobs family.

-Ronnie Jones, minister in Blue Ridge, GA (friend of Danny & Polly Cline), is urgently awaiting a kidney transplant. Danny is filling in for him temporarily.

-Patty Adair needs for VBS - EMPTY Kleenex boxes - both rectangular and square - please bring to building and place on labeled table in the fellowship room. VBS is scheduled for August 7-8. Theme: “Go Tell It On the Mountain.”

Gary and Priscilla will be in Washington state until the middle of August. Their address til August will be 17705 Clear Lake Blvd. SE, Yelm, WA 98597.

Food Contact For Month: Linda Goodnight. Call her to assist.

Elder Contact for Month: Rick Cliett. Phone: 865-789-9619

Sermon Topics: A.M. - “Elijah at Mt. Carmel”; P.M. - “Patmos and Beyond- No. 14- God’s Wrath Unleashed on Enemies of the Church” Revelation 13-20:10

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

Our Known Sick

-Dez Anderson— still confined to home with multiple health issues. Keep praying. God is listening and answering.

-Jim Anderson—recovering from broken wrist. Healing is slow but progressing. Multiple challenges with himself and Dez.

-Sheryle Elkins— will receive results of her PET scan on Tuesday. Please pray fervently for her. Her address is: 1383 Lake Front Drive, Dandridge, TN 37725.

-Al Finnell—triple bypass surgery on May 6. He is now at home and his recovery is progressing. Keep him and Beverly in your prayers.

-Ron Sommerville—had surgery recently to implant a nerve stimulator. Too sore to tell if the device is helping yet.

-Jimmy Vance is scheduled to have surgery Wednesday at Vanderbilt to remove a tumor from his jaw.

-Bill Green—still struggling with health issues

-Jean Compton— heart issues.

-Francis Laney — Her address is on the bulletin board in foyer.

-Pauline Swallow-has colon cancer. Please pray.

-Bill England-receiving radiation treatment for bone cancer.

-Kathy May battling ongoing health issues. She is still in Baxter.

Friends and Family News

-Donna Walker’s sister, Sandy—in ICU with infection. Her condition is very serious and she is refusing medications.

-Ben Lachica, Marijane’s father, had another stroke and pneumonia.

-Mary Wagner, Tina Yates’ sister, is doing better.

-Richard Nichols, Nick Nichol’s brother—cancer surgery in Illinois.

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

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

-Tom Behel, Al’s brother - slowly improving.

-Morris Fields -Leah Turner’s uncle, a lung infection.

-Barbara Copley, friend of Bill England and Sheryle Elkins—cancer.

-Brenda Moore, friend of Leah, has thyroid cancer and is having a very difficult time.

-Bill England has requested prayer for his friend, **Chester Forsythe**.

Deployed to Afghanistan: Tyler Behel, Al’s nephew.

Special Events

Men’s Prayer Session
Monday mornings at 8:30

Wednesday Night
Rick Cliett is leading a study
on the Book of Hebrews

Sunday Adult Class

Colossians—Al Behel

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 06/01/15 is **\$1,078,297.82**. Extra contributions to reduce the loan debt are needed and appreciated. Envelopes are available in the pews.

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