

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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Who Will Answer His Call?

Little children learn quickly just which tone or pitch of mother's voice is serious. One child, who was playing with some neighborhood children, heard his mother call him to come inside. One of his playmates called attention to his mother's instruction. The boy responded, "Oh, she's not serious yet. I don't have to go until she calls me three times."

Perhaps that's our problem as Christians. We read God's instructions, hear His warnings, but don't take Him seriously because He hasn't raised His voice and threatened us. We fail to heed because we don't think He really means it.

Throughout the Old Testament God called men and women and commissioned them to certain tasks. Samuel was called and set apart as a prophet. David was designated to be King over all Israel while still a young boy. And Elijah's mantle was passed on to Elisha to continue the work of spiritual leadership.

Not everyone responded positively to God's call. Jonah didn't like the assignment. God commissioned him to go to the Ninevites and warn them of coming judgment, but he sailed in the opposite direction and landed in trouble.

Jesus called disciples from an unlikely crowd of rugged fishermen and tax collectors. To accomplish history's most important task, he chose some of society's "least likely to succeed." They argued among themselves, had trouble grasping their mission, and scattered when the going got really tough. Only one of the twelve could be found standing near the cross when the dark hour came.

His call comes in a variety of ways. Sometimes it is calling us out of darkness and placing before us the challenge to be the "light of the world." He calls us to discipleship, to follow His Son. He calls us to lives of service by placing the needy in our paths and giving us the tools to make a difference. He calls us to bear a cross, to pick up a yoke of testimony even if it means the loss of all things. He calls the young and the old. He calls those with many talents, and those with only a few, for under His power even the smallest gift is magnified a hundred times. He calls us to love one another...to forgive one another...and to carry each other's burdens.

Perhaps more importantly, God calls us to share the message of redemption with our lost world. He commissions us to "Go" to that world with the good news that no one has to be lost anymore. He calls us to warn the world of impending disaster and the damning effects of sin. He calls us to offer all men the hope of eternal life.

Yet, the question remains, "Who will answer the call?" Who will fill the gap? Who will accept the commission and place our trust in Him? He needs men and women who will answer His first call, who will accept the task no matter what it may be.

—Al Behel

Other News and Prayer Requests

-Heartfelt sympathy to **Gary and Priscilla Dick** on the passing of Gary's Aunt Linda in Kentucky—they left Friday to travel there for the services.

-**Brittany Gammon**, daughter of Glen and Vicki Skelton, is recovering from a diagnosis of HELLP syndrome, leading to an emergency C-section Sept. 5—she and baby Cora Belle doing all right at last report.

-**Linda Blass**, **Vicki Skelton's** mother, broke her hip last week, had surgery, and is now in a rehab facility for therapy.

-**Carrie Harp**, daughter of **Marc and Sue Hayes**, possible surgery on lower jaw tumor—do not know if it is malignant.

-**Joey Barnett** diagnosed with mono.

-**Directory Updates:** Please review your directory information and make any additions or corrections and send these to Linda at lbehel@ix.netcom.com.

Food Contact For Month: Leah Turner, Back Up Ginny Cliett

Elder Contact for Month: Marc Hayes (1-731-608-4148)

Sermon Topics:

A.M.- "I Am the Light of the World" John 8:12-21—Al Behel

P.M.- "God's Formula for Forgiveness: 70x7"—Al Behel

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

Prayers for Our Known Sick

-**Dez Anderson**—still suffering with multiple health issues and currently in the hospital.

-**Madison Barnett**—recovering from gall bladder surgery.

-**Geordie Haynes** will have ear surgery at a later date.

-**Jan Messick** cataract surgery on right eye scheduled Sept. 19

-**Sheryle Elkins**—continuing chemotherapy. PET Scan was good.

-**Bill Valentine** recovering from esophageal cancer.

-**Larry Valentine**—results of scan last week were GOOD!

-**Joyce Keyser**—undergoing chemotherapy and radiation for peritoneal cancer. She is plagued by bouts of weakness and nausea.

-**Patsy Bevis**—feeling a little better.

-**Bill Green**—suffering from several health issues.

-**Jean Compton**—is recovering at home.

-**Kathy May** battling ongoing health issues.

-**Pauline Swallow** is dealing with cancer.

-**Jerry and Jeanette Dyer**- facing several challenges.

-**Larry Barnett** - has begun cardiac rehab.

-**Charles & Frances Copeland**—newborn great granddaughter, Madeline Grace Kirby, is very ill, but showing some improvement.

Friends and Family News/Prayer Requests

-**Shelly Stewart**, daughter-in-law of **Skip and Esther**, had a TIA on Aug. 26 and will see a vascular doctor in Sept. Shelly is **Tera's** mother.

-**Leah's and Patty's friend, Amanda Rucker**, partial knee replacement after years as an amputee.

-**Leah's friend, Denise Molinsky** lost her husband after a 25 year battle with a rare form of lung cancer.

-**Jackie Stearsman**, friend of Al Behel, has leukemia.

-**Nita Watern**, Brenda Scott's niece, chemo for liver cancer.

-**Lida Cliett**, Rick's aunt, ill with heart failure and cancer.

-**Maegan White**, Joyce Keyser's cousin, pain post brain surgeries.

-**Sue Hayes' sister-in-law, Jane Hufford**, suffering from leukemia, received a long awaited bone marrow transplant Aug. 23.

-**Jim & Judy Watkins**—Rick's sister and husband, health issues.

-**Catherine Rose**, Leah's neighbor, receiving PT to regain strength.

-**Dee Lewis**, friend of the Clietts, 6th occurrence stage 4 cancer.

Eastern European Missions—Million Dollar Sunday—Sept. 25

There will be a special collection to purchase Bibles for Ukraine and Russian Schools next Sunday. Baskets passed twice—second for EEM.

Grief Support Group—See Patty Adair for information and updates.

Ladies Bible Study—Tuesday, Sept. 20 with Polly Cline leading a study on "Hunger in My Soul" at 10 a.m. in the fellowship hall.

Special Events

Men's Prayer Session

Monday mornings at 8:30

Wednesday Night

Danny Cline "Trust in the Truth"

2 Thessalonians 2:13

Sunday Adult Class

Rick Cliett "Faith & Grace"

Ephesians 2:8

Building Fund

The Latest Loan Balance is **\$1,009,725.10**. 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.

Times of Services

Sunday A.M.

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Worship 10:30 AM

Sunday P.M. 6:00 PM

CDs and DVDs of Sermons are available free at sound booth. Also available on the website at: www.greatsmokymountainschurchofchrist.com.