



The Caller

A Weekly Newsletter of the Elizabethtown church of Christ
Vol. XXXIV January 28, 2007 No. 4

From Where I Sit

Michael D. Greene

Much to some folks dismay and other's joy we did not get the snow that some weather forecasters had predicted. But the tail end of the winter storm that has battered much of the United States blew through our area bringing some freezing rain and

slick streets that kept some away Sunday. But we had, as Fred Pence said, a good period of worship. We missed those that were not able to be out and look forward to seeing them next Lord's Day.



This Sunday we will have a number of visitors from Savannah, Tennessee with us. Their Youth Group and sponsors will be returning from a trip and will be spending Saturday night with some of our members and then worshipping with us. We will also provide them a meal of soup and sandwiches before they head home. Thanks to all who extended hospitality to this group of folks from a sister congregation.



I know several members of this congregation and others are Daily Bible Readers. But as we read, we might make a practice of reading the Proverbs on a regular basis. There are 31 chapters which means reading one chapter per day will result in the whole book being read in a month.

The book is Solomon's collection of wise sayings that will impart wisdom to the reader. In the pages of that great book you will find such thought provoking gems as:

*A stone is heavy and sand is weighty,
But a fool's wrath is heavier than both of them.*
Proverbs 27:3

*The leech has two daughters —
Give and Give!
There are three things that are never satisfied,
Four never say, "Enough!":
The grave,
The barren womb,
The earth that is not satisfied with water —
And the fire never says, "Enough!"*
Proverbs 30:15-16

*A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold
In settings of silver.*
Proverbs 25:11

Indeed, reading and digesting the Proverbs will do exactly what Solomon said they would, make us wise and increase our learning, Proverbs 1:1-7.

Ray's Ramblings

Ray Pack

I appreciate the efforts being put forth through our visitation program and was thrilled to hear the report that 80% of the visits assigned are being completed. While it may seem that visiting is time wasted, let me assure you that folks are encouraged and

appreciative. On several visits that I have made the last words spoken are, "You don't realize how much this visit has meant to me." Those types of visits give me encouragement and do as much good for me as it does the person whom I have visited. I know there is room for more of you to be involved in this good program. If you are interested see Ronnie Carter and let him know of your desire.



Consider the following article I clipped from one of the church bulletins we receive in the office each week. It shows the simplicity of God's message in comparison to other famous works.

A Little Perspective

- Pythagorean Theorem - 24 Words
- The Model Prayer - 66 Words
- Archimedes' Principle - 67 Words
- 10 Commandments - 179 Words
- Gettysburg Address - 284 Words
- Declaration of Independence - 1300 Words
- Governmental Regulations on the sale of a head of cabbage - 26,911 Words
- Enough Said!!!

We can say a whole lot of words that have no meaning or we could say few words and speak volumes. Let us not be guilty of trying to overcomplicate the Word of God.



Next week I will give an update of other activities planned for our young people. Terry Nowland, Dennis Hogan and I will be meeting this week to discuss and plan events for the rest of the year.

Sunday's Sermons:

A.M. *Fire In His Bosom*
Proverbs 6:20-27

P.M. *"Prayer and Fasting..."*
Mark 9:25-29

“She Doesn’t Look Like Mama...”

Way back when I was a student at Freed-Hardeman College (now university), I took a class entitled Preacher and His Work. It was taught by Tom Holland. In that class brother Holland gave us much practical instruction as to what was expected of one who filled the role of a full time “located preacher.” We talked about sermon preparation, visiting, handling problems we might face in our work as we tried to fill the expectations of elders and members.

One class session of the Preacher and His Work class in particular stands out in my mind, even after thirty plus years. It was the class period during which we made a field trip to the local funeral home. Why do that, you might ask. Well, the rationale went something like this: since preachers are often called upon to officiate at funerals, it is good to know all you can about the conducting of funerals so that one might be effective in ministering to the grieving families and loved ones. I will say that as I look back that class has turned out to be one of the most practical and useful that I ever had.

Over the years I have had the privilege and honor to be asked to speak at many funerals. And it is an honor to be called upon to do so. Some of those funerals were for dear friends and members of the congregations where I was preaching. Some were for perfect strangers.

Perfect strangers? How could that be? Well, over the years because of “working together” with funeral directors in helping folks through some very difficult times, I have become good friends with more than one funeral director. When someone needed the services of the funeral director but did not know or have a preacher the funeral director might call on me to help conduct the funeral. When called upon, I would generally do all I could to help the family.

Before I get to the point of all this, there is one more piece of information I need to share to make that point. At one place where I preached, Mary and I became very good friends with not only the owners of the funeral home, but with one of the ladies who worked in the office of the funeral home. This dear Christian friend grew up in that community and knew a lot of people from that community.

One day I got a call from the owner of that funeral home asking me if I had heard of the death of a person, called that person’s name, and asked if I would do the funeral, especially since the family had requested that I do so by name. I responded that I did not know that person. I asked for the names of some of the family, thinking there might be a connection I could make that way. I did not know any of the family. Again, I said I did not know any of the family, but that I would be willing to do the funeral. I would be by the next day and visit with the family a little before the time for public visitation which I did. Seems that one of the brothers of the deceased had heard me do another funeral and wanted me to do his brother’s as well.

Shortly after the call from the funeral director, I got another call from the friend who worked at the funeral home, asking me if I knew anything about the deceased and his family. I responded that I did not. She just wanted to give me a “head’s up” and proceeded to inform me that the deceased had not lived a very exemplary life. He had been a very heavy drinker and had in fact died of alcohol poisoning. I appreciated the information, it helped me to anticipate the meeting with the family the next day.

I did the funeral. The family seemed appreciative of my efforts.

But afterward, I learned one more bit of information about the deceased and the family. It seems that the son of this man had wanted to put a six pack of beer in the casket with the deceased prior to visitation! The funeral director who happened to be a Christian, simply refused to allow it. When I heard that this young man wanted to put a six pack of beer in his father’s casket, I simply shook my head in disbelief.

Of course, I have seen many things put in or on caskets of folks who have passed away. Pictures, flowers, stuffed animals with children, I even heard of one man who wanted a golf club buried with him.

Then there was one family who, when they came to see their beloved Christian mother at the funeral home, said to the funeral director, “Here, put this in her hand, she doesn’t look like mama without it.” He gladly did so. It was her well worn Bible!

Seems this woman was a faithful Christian. Married for over 50 years to a faithful Christian man. They had raised five children, had 15 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren and all of them who were old enough were Christians!

Both of these families wanted something put in their family member’s casket that seemed to exemplify the life their loved one lived. There are many things that might fill that role. A six pack of beer and a Bible represent different extremes. A life long golfer might want his putter. A retired soldier might have the American flag that graced his casket placed inside. And a favorite stuffed animal seems appropriate for a child who has passed away.

Here is the point. What would exemplify your life? Or, what would you want to exemplify your life? What would you want your family to place in your casket to symbolize to others what your life was all about? But then, in contrast to what you might want, what would they actually put there?

Of course what would exemplify our life is at the end of life being determined as we live our lives, isn’t it? “Here, put this in her hand, she doesn’t look like mama without it.”

—Mike Greene

News and Notes

PANSY SELLS has not been feeling well and has been unable to be at services. **JIM MAPLES** is scheduled for eye surgery at Norton's Hospital in Louisville January 26. **ALDEN WHITEFIELD**, Mike Parks' grandfather, is in the University Medical Center in Lubbock, Texas with colon problems. **INA DUNCAN**, Dorotha Weaver's sister, is in critical condition in Ohio. **J MARTIN** is scheduled for foot surgery January 31 at Baptist East Hospital in Louisville. **DIANE LEWIS** will have gallbladder surgery in the coming weeks. **WILMA STULL** suffered a sprained hip Tuesday. **DOROTHY BROTHERS** will leave February 3 for a mission trip to Panama.

MEMBERS TO INCLUDE ON PRAYER LISTS

Betty Addington	J Martin
Alyenne Bates	Doris Martin
Neil & Carolyn Burden	Tom Morgan
LaVelle Dyer	Bonnie Payton
Howard Gardner	Marie Rose
Bernard Gillim	Terry Showers
Faye Guess	Grace Speer
Roy Johnson	Barbara Underwood
David Keister	Lonnie Underwood
	Mary Walker

Let us continue to remember the following military personnel in our prayers: Justin Burg, Dave Fulbright, Scott Allen, Robert E. Wooten, Justin Gardner, Kelly Leverett, George Edwards

Additional Prayer List: Darcie Bergeson, Gil Berry, Sue Cantrell, Marie Dennison, Sydney Dover, Ricky Duncan, Thomas Elkins, Kevin Fox, John & Connie Gardner, Evelyn Gattis, Betty Goheen, Renee Green, Tonya Harper, Greg Helm, Nicole Johnson, Art Lattanzi, Michelle Lawson, Lina Lee, Gayle Massey, Erman McClaskey, Mike McCormick, Terri McDonald, Donald Montgomery & Family, Joe Pawley, Phyllis Pirtle, Charles Pottinger, Patsy & Joe Richter, Janet Rogan, Roge-Ge-Neal Smith, Reiko Tarasavage, Patsy Taylor, Sylvia Taylor, Juanita Tillery, Betty Tucker, Laura Walker, Kevin Weaver, Laura & Roy Woodcock

Pantry Item of the Week

Week of 1/28/07 Canned pork'n'beans

Seeds Needed

We are again collecting garden seeds to send to our brethren in Donetsk, Ukraine. These can be put in the mission box in the lobby or brought to the church office.

Thank You

I am receiving cards of love each day from some of you. I thank you so very much for your many prayers. Please continue to pray for me and my family. Many thanks again.

Roge-Ge-Neal Smith

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,
Words cannot express my appreciation for the beautiful cards, kind words and most of all your prayers. As Tom and I read each and every word, we found so much comfort. My E'town church family has always been near and very dear to my heart.

In Christian Love, Judy Embry Forrester

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **ELDERS/DEACONS/PREACHERS MEETING**, Sunday afternoon, **January 28**, at 4:30 p.m.
- **SINGING AT ATRIA**, Sunday afternoon, **January 28**, at 3:00 p.m.
- **BABY SHOWER** for Kelly & Emma Paxton, Sunday, **January 28**, at 4:00 p.m. in the South Wing. Kelly is registered at Wal-Mart and Babies R Us.
- **FREED-HARDEMAN UNIVERSITY LECTURES**, February 4-9.
- **ANNUAL SWEETHEART DINNER**, Saturday night, **February 10**, in the South Wing.
- **CHURCH WORKERS WORKSHOP**, Monday, **February 12**, at 10:30 a.m.
- **ATTENTION: 5TH GRADERS & UNDER!** There will be an Old Fashioned Family Game Night in the South Wing Sunday, **February 18**, immediately after evening services. Bring your favorite finger foods and board games and join in the fun and fellowship. See Ken or Monica Bybee if you have any questions.
- **HOMECOMING, June 3-6**

OUR RECORD FOR

January 21, 2007

Sunday Bible Study	116
Sunday Morning Assembly	159
Sunday Evening Assembly	131
Tuesday Ladies Bible Class	16
Wednesday Bible Study	120
Contribution (Budget -- \$5,885)	\$5,438

**Elder/Coordinator for January
Dennis Hogan**

Bible Question

This Week's Bible Question: In what situation were ropes cut to discard a lifeboat?

Last Week's Bible Question: Where is sadness described as the breaking of tent ropes? The correct answer is Jeremiah 10:19-20. Kay Thomason, Edna Ashlock, Mary Greene, and Martha Cato (TN) correctly answered the question.

*Please write down your answer and give it to Ray, put it in the box outside the church office before next Wednesday or email your answer to **rpac119@bbtel.com** by Tuesday afternoon. Please include the Scripture reference and your name.*

Schedule of Services

Sunday:

Bible Classes	9:30 A.M.
Morning Worship	10:30 A.M.
Evening Worship	6:00 P.M.

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class	10:30 A.M.
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Wednesday

Evening Bible Class	7:00 P.M.
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Dennis Hogan	234-0705
Henry McAlister	765-7386
Mike Pence	737-8123
Rick Whobrey	769-9267

Ministers:

Michael D. Greene	862-9971
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Secretary:

Kim Whobrey	769-9267
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Visit us on the World Wide Web:
www.elizabethtownchurchofchrist.com

5. Genesis 46-48; Matt. 13:44-14:12
4. Genesis 44-45; Matt. 13:24-43
3. Genesis 41:50-43; Matt. 13:1-23
2. Genesis 40-41:49; Matt. 12:22-50
1. Genesis 38-39; Matt. 12:22-50

Week 4

Daily Bible Reading Schedule

Jan. 28 — Singing at Atria
Jan. 28 — Paxton Baby Shower
Jan. 28 — Elders, Deacons & Preachers Meeting
Feb. 4-9 — FHU Lectures
Feb. 10 — Sweetheart Dinner
Feb. 18 — 5th Grade & Under, Game Night
June 3-6, 2007 — Homecoming

PARTICIPATION

Are You Part of the

Elizabethtown Church of Christ
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