

# THE UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS MESSENGER

**November 22, 2009**

## **He Knew His Father Was There**

Not too long ago Alexander was learning how to walk. Jackie and I were visiting a congregation just north of Cincinnati and, once the worship service was over, Alexander resolved that he was going to walk the entire building. He stuck those little arms out to each side to help maintain balance and, with a steely determination that made me laugh, he began his journey. The congregation is a large one with many young children running all over the place and a decent sized building. Alexander had a long way to go and many obstacles to overcome. I decided to follow him around to make sure that he did not get hurt.

We hadn't gone too far before he toppled over for the first time. As he rolled around on the floor trying to decide if the situation warranted a cry, I reached under his arms and picked him back up. He hadn't known I was there but when he felt me help him back to his feet and knew that I was walking each step with him, he grinned from ear to ear and took off with even greater enthusiasm. He fell several more times throughout his walk through that building but each time he did he'd raise his arms up for his father to pick him up and put him back on his feet.

How fortunate we are to have a heavenly Father who is willing to do for us what I was doing for Alexander. As I followed him around and helped him up, it got me to thinking about 1 John 1:5-2:3. **"This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us. My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments."**

More than anything else our heavenly Father wants us to refrain from sinning. He is holy and therefore commands that we be as well. Yet He more than anyone knows that we are imperfect people striving for perfection. As Alexander went along his legs became more sure and his steps more confident. However, there were still times when one foot would smack the other and cause him to stumble forward and fall. Scripture speaks of sin as

stumbling, 1 Peter 2:8 being just one example among many. When he did this he had to look up to me and extend his arms at which time I would bend down and pick him back up.

It's because I love my son, as we all love our children, that I stayed with him to help him when he needed it. That gets me to thinking of Jesus' words from Matthew 7:11. **"If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!"** Is there a better thing to ask of Him than forgiveness when we stumble and fall short? When Alexander fell I did not want to leave him crumpled up on the floor. I wanted to help him back to his feet, dust him off, and help him get started again. God does not want to leave His children on the floor either. When Alexander fell, he certainly did not want to remain on the floor and so he reached out to me for help. When we fall why would we want to stay down there in the muck and mire of sin? Instead, let us turn our eyes to heaven and extend our arms with a prayer of repentance and a request for forgiveness on our lips. If we do, our Father will lift us back to our feet, clean us off, and set us back on the path. How fortunate we are to have such a Father!

Adam

In Need of Prayers	Information
<p>Sharon Tirey continues her cancer treatments.</p> <p>Taylor Osterling is home and currently stable. There will be ongoing treatments. The family is grateful for our continued prayers.</p> <p>Lilly Fitzwater's new room number is 32.</p> <p>Don Bowman has torn his calf.</p> <p>Michelle Oxendine (friend of Jim Edwards) is in the late stages of ovarian cancer.</p> <p>David Day (Bobbie Atkisson's grandson) has been deployed to Iraq. His wife will follow in December.</p> <p>Cecil Ellis had a leg amputated at Central Baptist last Wednesday due to very poor circulation.</p>	<p>Remember Ron Catchen, Chuck McDavitt, and David Blakeman.</p> <p>The congregational information meeting is this afternoon at 5. Please make your plans to attend.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>University Height Church of Christ</b>  <b>445 Columbia Avenue</b>  <b>Lexington, Ky 40508</b>  <b>859-255-6257</b>  <b><a href="http://www.uheightschurch.com">www.uheightschurch.com</a></b></p>