

**IN NEED OF PRAYERS**

**GOSPEL PLAN OF SALVATION**

- Hear the gospel (Romans 10:17)
- Believe Jesus is the Christ (John 3:16)
- Repent from sins (Luke 13:3)
- Confess faith in Jesus (Romans 10:9-10)
- Be baptized for remission of sins (Acts 2:38)
- Live worthy of the calling (Ephesians 4:1)

**Recent Additions:**

**Ron Tirey** had his surgery at Central Baptist this past Thursday. All went well and he is hopeful that in a few weeks he will begin to see the positive results of the surgery. He and Sharon will be spending this week in Winchester during his recovery. Sharon will be caring for Ron *and* sister Edith on her own this week so let’s remember her in our prayers as well!

**List:**

**Our members:** Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Paul Atkisson

**Others:** Gaye Brassom, Paul Ayres, Charlene Antle, Lala Whitson, Rita Pagan, Vina Krassow, Courtney and Aubrey Reeves, John Bennett, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Gail Stein, Michael Poynter, Taylor Osterling, CJ Nash, The Shepherd family, Sandy Childress, Edith Tirey, Nilma Covington, Mary Wilson, Ed Byers, RJ Stevens, Charlie Little, Michael Wells, The Sims family

<p><b><u>WEEKLY READING</u></b></p> <p><b>Sun:</b> Ps 85, Ex 30-31, Ne 11:1-12:26, 1 Co 3</p> <p><b>Mon:</b> Ps 86, Ex 32, Ne 12:27-47, 1 Co 4</p> <p><b>Tue:</b> Ps 87, Ex 33, Ne 13, 1 Co 5</p> <p><b>Wed:</b> Ps 88, Ex 34, Est 1, 1 Co 6</p> <p><b>Thu:</b> Ps 89, Ex 35:1-29, Est 2, 1 Co 7</p> <p><b>Fri:</b> Ps 90, Ex 35:30-36:38, Est 3, 1 Co 8</p> <p><b>Sat:</b> Ps 91, Ex 37, Est 4, 1 Co 9</p>	<p><b><u>LEADERSHIP</u></b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b><u>ELDERS</u></b></td> <td><b><u>DEACONS</u></b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Garry Banks</td> <td>Troy Antle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>David Collins</td> <td>Richard Brundige</td> </tr> <tr> <td>John Thompson</td> <td>Neal Erickson</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Adam Litmer</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b><u>EVANGELIST</u></b></td> <td>Bill Morelan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Adam Litmer</td> <td>Jim Parsons</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Pat Seabolt</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Matt Thompson</td> </tr> </table>	<b><u>ELDERS</u></b>	<b><u>DEACONS</u></b>	Garry Banks	Troy Antle	David Collins	Richard Brundige	John Thompson	Neal Erickson		Adam Litmer	<b><u>EVANGELIST</u></b>	Bill Morelan	Adam Litmer	Jim Parsons		Pat Seabolt		Matt Thompson	<p><b><u>SERVICES</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Sunday</u></b> Bible Study: 9:45 AM Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM</p> <p><b><u>Wednesday</u></b> Bible Study: 7:30 PM</p> <p><b><u>1st Fri. of Month</u></b> Singing: 7:30 PM</p> <p><b><u>3rd Fri. of Month</u></b> Bible Study: 7:00 PM (Ask for location)</p>
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**UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST**

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**University Heights Messenger**

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**There’s a lesson here**

On occasion one will come across the word “utopia”. Way back in 1516 Sir Thomas More, an English lawyer, philosopher, and statesman with humanistic leanings wrote a book entitled “Utopia” about an imaginary island with an ideal society having a perfect political and legal system. Although he was an important councilor to King Henry VIII, More opposed that monarch’s separation from Catholicism. He was imprisoned in 1534 and the following year was tried for treason, convicted by false testimony, and beheaded. Since that time the lure of utopia has been a significant one as people have created ideal worlds in fiction, or have tried to produce real ones with cultish zeal.

“Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men.”  
2 Corinthians 5:11

Those who dwell upon the idea of utopia, no doubt, fail to realize that the first society that ever existed was a flawless one with a perfect political and legal system. Read what the greatest author of all time wrote about that perfect society.

*“When no bush of the field was yet in the land and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, and a mist was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground— then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*

*“A river flowed out of Eden to water the garden, and there it divided and became four rivers. The name of the first is the Pishon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Havilah, where there is gold. And the gold of that land is good; bdellium and onyx stone are there. The name of the second river is the Gihon. It is the one that flowed around the whole land of Cush. And the name of the third river is the Tigris, which flows east of Assyria. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.*

*“The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, ‘You may surely eat of every*

*tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.'*

*"Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him." Now out of the ground the LORD God had formed every beast of the field and every bird of the heavens and brought them to the man to see what he would call them. And whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all livestock and to the birds of the heavens and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, 'This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.'" (Genesis 2:5-23)*

What more could one desire? The society in which Adam and Eve were placed was a perfect one with every need capable of being perfectly met. It had a perfect government with God as Supreme Ruler and a perfect law. It had ideal beauty and absolute purpose. Adam and Eve and all subsequent family members could have lived there in perfect peace and contentment forever by partaking freely of the tree of life. But Adam and Eve chose to sin and were driven out of the garden, i.e. utopia, and man has been longing for a perfect society ever since. That longing should move us to do everything possible to always be in a right relationship with God so that He will receive us into the eternal utopia, i.e. heaven.

The Elders

### **Observing An Elderly Sister**

We stopped in to see her last Saturday afternoon. She was sitting on the couch with her left leg propped up on some pillows next to her. A recent surgery left behind a wound that is not healing the way it should. She is experiencing a great deal of pain and her doctor is at a loss for why it won't heal. I believe she is scheduled to visit an Indianapolis Wound Center some time this week.

Even before this wound on her leg she was not able to get around very well. Having been a schoolteacher until her retirement, she spent a great deal of time chasing first graders here, there, and yonder. Years of carrying them, playing with them, and holding them have stooped her 80 plus year frame dramatically. If she does get up and move around it is only with the help of a walker. Without her walker a fall is inevitable and at this point in her life it is likely that she could not recover from such a fall.

Now her days are filled with nurses visiting the home, medicines being taken, waiting for brethren to stop by to run errands she can no longer run for herself, and hours sitting upon that couch talking to her husband who himself is pretty much confined to his chair next to her couch.

She and her husband had twins about sixty years ago who did not survive their first year of life. They were never able to have children after that. She does have family living in the region but they apparently call on their aging relatives very rarely and when they do it's never without asking for a few bucks. For all intents and purposes the only family that they have are the members of the church.

As I sat there observing this elderly sister I found myself thinking that this must be an absolutely depressing way to have to live. Surely she must be bitter and frustrated to spend her final years like this. Then I noticed the open Bible lying on the floor within easy reach from her seat on the couch. I noticed a pen and a highlighting marker sitting on the open pages. Then it occurred to me that she had not told me any of the things I have described thus far. All of this information was given me by the brother who had brought me there. She never mentioned her pain, her inability to get around, lingering heartache over the loss of the twins, or her absentee family members. In fact, she never complained a single time while we were there.

It was then I noticed how colorful the pages of her Bible were. There were notes and highlighted passages all over the place. When I mentioned this to her she slowly bent down and picked up that Bible. She put it in her lap and smiled down at the pages. I was struck as I realized that this was not just a book to her, this was her dearest and closest friend. Her own language was saturated with the language of Scripture. Rarely have I met a Christian who could so seamlessly weave the words of Jesus Christ and His inspired writers into nearly every sentence she spoke. Rarely have I seen a Christian for whom the Holy Writ was *so dynamically alive!* Her eyes lit up as we began to talk about God and His Word. More than knowing the Book, she loved it. More than knowing about the Book, she lived it. I realized then that her days were not spent in idleness; they were spent in near constant study and Bible discussion with the man who had been by her side every step of the way. Incidentally, I never really met her husband as he slept soundly in his chair after our first few minutes in the house. The years have caught up to him, too. However, I could not fail to notice his own worn Bible on the end table next to his chair.

*Worn Bibles.* That's what those two elderly soldiers of the cross owned. Her Bible was taped and several pages were now sitting loose having pulled free from the binding. This aging saint was riddled with pain and abandoned by family. Yet the Lord still stood by her and strengthened her. She knew it and it preserved her. What joy she possessed! As we left I was reminded of a Centuries old observation: Bibles that are falling apart usually belong to people who aren't. How true in the case of this beautiful elderly sister!

AL

**Sermons:** AM Immodesty and Lust  
PM Learning Rechabite Fidelity

**Reading:** AM Mark 6:1-20  
PM Mark 6:21-44