

In need of prayers

Ciara McCrary, Mark and Teresa McCrary's fifteen year old daughter, has been diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. She will also be having cataract surgery soon. Incidentally, it was the cataracts that led the doctors to test for diabetes.

Elizabeth Parsons, the daughter of Jim and Janice, had a biopsy on Friday. Janice flew out to Oklahoma to be with her and there will be an update when the results are in.

The Marksberry's were the victims of a plane crash. Mr. Marksberry continues in serious condition.

In need of regular prayers

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Janice Parsons, Glenn Kimberlin

Others: Edith Tirey, Aiden Powell, Charlene Antle, Lala Whitson, Tom Curtis, Rita Pagan, Linda Hill, Robin Miller, Vina Krassow, Courtney and Aubrey Reeves, John Bennett, Dennis Brennan, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Gail Stein

Weekly Reading

Su	Ezra 8-10, Ps 32, Mk 11
M	Neh 1, Ps 33, Mk 12
T	Neh 2-3, Ps 34, Mk 13
W	Neh 4-6, Ps 35, Mk 14
Th	Neh 7, Ps 36, Mk 15
F	Neh 8-9, Ps 37:1-22, Mk 16
Sa	Neh 10, Ps 37:23-40, Luke 1

University Heights Messenger

September 4, 2011

Volume 3 Number 12

Today's sermon topics

AM Seeking peace in a world of strife

PM "What can I do?"

Today's Scripture Reading

AM Matthew 5:17-32

PM Matthew 5:33-48

Times of worship

Sunday AM

Bible study 9:45

Worship service 10:45

Sunday PM

Worship service 6

Wednesday PM

Bible study and worship 7:30

First and Third Friday's

7:30 PM

Editor: Adam Litmer

There's A Lesson Here

Anyone who has lost a loved one has experienced grief. Grief and mourning are normal and natural human reactions to a meaningful loss. When Jacob was told by his sons that an animal had devoured Joseph, Jacob *"tore his garments and put sackcloth on his loins and mourned for his son many days. All his sons and daughters rose up to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted and said, 'No, I shall go down to Sheol to my son, mourning.' Thus his father wept for him."* (Genesis 37:34-35).

Mourning is not restricted to the loss of a person. Whenever we lose anything that is particularly meaningful we experience some degree of grief and we mourn over the loss. The more meaningful the item lost, the greater the degree of grief that is experienced. Certainly we mourn at a more intense level and for a longer period when we have lost a loved one than when we have lost some memento or other important object, but grief is always expe-

rienced when something we value is lost.

In Matthew 5:4 Jesus said to His disciples, *“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”* While it is true that the child of God can receive comfort at times of deep loss, even the loss of loved ones, it is doubtful that Jesus had this sort of loss in mind. Most people probably consider the loss of a beloved spouse or the untimely loss of a child full of promise as being the hardest to bear. We have all witnessed, and perhaps even directly experienced, the naked, raw, unrestrained grief unashamedly displayed at such times. But there is a loss that is infinitely more meaningful than the loss of anything or anyone in this world.

In Mark 8:36 a pertinent question is asked: *“For what does it profit a man to **gain the whole world** and forfeit his soul?”* In verse 35 Jesus said, *“...but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospels will save it.”* Losing one’s physical life is rather insignificant in comparison with losing one’s soul. There should be no greater sense of loss or quicker prompt to mourn than the recognition that one is lost eternally. Hence, Jesus said, *“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.”*

The lesson here cannot be minimized. If one’s soul is lost and no mourning is occurring, then it can be concluded that one’s soul simply does not mean enough to the individual. There are a myriad of reasons why one might live his life giving little attention to his soul. They range from disbelief that he even has a soul to the idea that he should indulge his physical desires to the absolute fullest. Whatever the reason, the end result is that his soul has little, if any, meaning to him. What a pity!

But Jesus said that if your soul means so much to you that you mourn when you discover it is lost, then there is comfort available to you. And what a comfort it is! Not an earthly comfort, but a heavenly one; not a human comfort, but divine; not a comforted limited by time, but eternal. *“Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.”* (Matthew 11:29). *“And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”* (Philippians 4:7). Truly, there is no greater loss than to be separated from God because of our sins.

-The Elders

Paving The Way For Innovators

Some of the innovations that have gained acceptance among the people of God in the past one hundred and fifty years, did so because there was serious vacuum in carrying out some aspect of the church’s work. Missionary cooperatives arose due to the negligence of local churches in supporting preachers in evangelizing new fields. The one man “pastor system

was urged as a remedy for incompetent elders, with which many mid-nineteenth century congregations were saddled. D.S. Burnett was an early advocate of this system for that very reason. Instrumental music was introduced as an aid to atrocious signing among the church in the earlier times.

It is difficult for us today, who are generally accustomed to good singing, to imagine how bad things were in some churches. Benjamin Franklin, in an early edition of the **Reformer**, preserved a window through which we may view the singing as it was frequently carried on in those days. He wrote: “It is lamentable to see the negligence of the brethren in cultivating their talent for singing. It might be truly said that if all the delinquencies which have obtained among religious people this one is transcendent. How much might be said here without exaggeration? Reader, have you not seen large congregations that could not sing one hymn without a book, and could scarcely do it with one?”

The invitation song, according to Franklin, all too often went like this: “...after waiting some time, a brother very deliberately draws the case out of his pocket, takes out his spectacles, adjusts them properly to his eyes, looks around and inquires of several others for a hymn book. Presently one is produced, he looks at the index, announces the page, tunes his voice, and finally commences...Finally the singing is murdered through, and all seem glad the task is performed.” (**The Life and Times of Elder Benjamin Franklin**, p. 89.)

In the last years of his life, after the instrument had obtained favor among the churches, Franklin expressed profound regret that more attention had not been given to the importance of singing in worship. He was of the opinion that singing, such as described above, was as destitute of true devotion as singing with an instrument. This deplorable state of affairs, especially among the less careful Bible students and the more worldly-minded members of the church, contributed no little to the ready acceptance of the organ in many places across the land.

We today may not be neglecting the singing in worship, but are we neglecting some other aspect of our service to God? Are we, even now, playing into the hand of innovators and helping pave the way for their success in the years ahead, by showing improper concern for a particular part of our responsibility as the people of God? We must constantly strive to be diligent in all our service to God, both in our attitudes and in the performance of our duties, to the end that we do all that He requires of us, in the way He instructs us, and to the best of our ability. “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!”

-This article was written by Earl Kimbrough in March of 1976 in his “Restoration Footnotes” column of *Searching the Scriptures*. It made me think. I hope it does the same for you. AL

Gospel plan of salvation: Hear the gospel (Romans 10:17), Believe Jesus Christ (John 3:16), Repent of sin (Luke 13:3), Confess faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 10:9), Be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), Live worthy of a Christian (Ephesians 4:1)