

University Heights Messenger

Volume 5--Number 1

January 6, 2012

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)

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

List:

Janett Brundige has been dealing with pain from a fall as well as illness. **Alexa Antle** continues to recover from her recent car accident.

Our members: Jeff Howerton, Glenn Kimberlin, Paul Atkisson, Deborah Moody

Others: Lenny Shepperson, Jan Hogen, Barabara Matheny, David Morrow, Debbie Parker, Rita Pagan, Vina Krassow, Courtney and Aubrey Reeves, John Bennett, Robert and Sarah Brundige, Donald Dawson, Jean Gartland, Gail Stein, Dawn Rutledge, Sandy Childress, Mary Wilson, Doris Baker, Bill Childress, Susie Burton, Fred Dalton, Norma Hurt, Taylor Osterling

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| <p><u>WEEKLY READING</u></p> <p>Sun: Ps 118, 2 Kg 25:22-30, Is 21, Jn 18:1-27</p> <p>Mon: Ps 119: 1-88, Jb 1, Is 22, Jn 18:28-19:16</p> <p>Tue: Ps 119:89-176, Jb 2, Is 23, Jn 19:17-42</p> <p>Wed: Ps 120, Jb 3, Is 24, Jn 20</p> <p>Thu: Ps 121, Jb 4-5, Is 25, Jn 21</p> <p>Fri: Ps 122, Jb 6-7, Is 26-27, 1 Jn 1-2:6</p> <p>Sat: Ps 123, Jb 8, Is 28, 1 Jn 2:7-17</p> | <p><u>LEADERSHIP</u></p> <p><u>ELDERS</u> Garry Banks David Collins John Thompson</p> <p><u>DEACONS</u> Troy Antle Richard Brundige Neal Erickson Adam Litmer</p> <p><u>EVANGELIST</u> Adam Litmer</p> | <p><u>SERVICES</u></p> <p><u>Sunday</u> Bible Study: 9:45 AM Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM</p> <p><u>Wednesday</u> Bible Study: 7:30 PM</p> <p><u>1st Fri. of Month</u> Singing: 7:30 PM</p> <p><u>3rd Fri. of Month</u> Bible Study: 7:00 PM (Finished for the time being)</p> |
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Randy Blackaby

Brother Randy Blackaby, a faithful gospel preacher and elder for the New Carlisle congregation of saints (a little town just outside Dayton, Ohio) passed on to his reward Thursday evening. Randy died of an apparent massive heart attack.

Let us say a **special prayer** for the family of **Randy Blackaby**, a faithful gospel preacher who passed on to his reward Thursday.

I first met Randy about ten years ago and during the years I spent in Cincinnati working with the brethren at Evendale I would see Randy at least once a month during a Bible study held for preachers at our building. My first impression of Randy was that he was a bit aloof. He did not seem to have much to say and was never quick to contribute to a discussion. As is so often the case, impressions drawn quickly are wrong and I certainly was about Randy. Sometimes a passage of Scripture makes you think of an individual Christian. As I came to know him I realized that Randy Blackaby was the embodiment of Proverbs 17:27, which says, *“Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.”* In all the years I knew Randy and in all the hours I spent with him in study of Scripture and in conversation, I do not recall a single time his speaking “off the cuff”, losing his calm, or multiplying words to the point of saying something foolish or sinful. For that matter, I never once heard Randy say something about a person that he would not feel comfortable saying to their face. *Not one time.* Though I never told him or anyone else, I tend to think of Randy and his example when I feel myself getting a bit hot under the collar.

Randy was a very careful and diligent Bible student. He loved the truth and knew it well. There is one moment from his life in the time that I knew him that I think about occasionally, a moment that blends his cool spirit and love for the truth in perfect harmony. Randy was debating a man of the charismatic persuasion on the topic of modern day tongue speaking. During the course of the debate Randy’s opponent openly and unapologetically violated the agreed upon rules for the debate. Randy was placed in a difficult position for his publicly calling his opponent on it would have hurt Randy more than his opponent. I have listened to many gospel preachers debate in my life and I can list a number of them who would have flown

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right off the handle when they had the chance to get back up. In fact, many gospel preachers were present that night and nearly all of us were itching to jump up there and loudly point out the man's blatant violation of the agreed upon rule. Randy slowly walked up to the podium, opened his Bible, and just started teaching the truth. Afterward, he told us that he was annoyed, even a bit angry, at what his opponent had done. Yet Randy was more interested in teaching the truth than in giving vent to his anger. Again I was reminded of a Proverb, this time 29:11. "*A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back.*" However one may feel about the effectiveness of Randy's decision in a debate format, according to Proverbs 29:11 he was far from a fool.

Randy did a lot of writing. He came from a newspaper background. In fact, Randy won a Pulitzer for his work, though you would never get him to tell you that. Whatever future he may have had in that arena he gave up to preach the gospel. His writing ability, which he possessed in spades, was put to use in the Lord's kingdom. Randy wrote many articles and workbooks that continue to be used by congregations and will be for a long time. His short workbook on the Psalms, *The Lord Is My Shepherd*, is the best material of comparative length that I have read.

Since moving to Lexington, I had only seen Randy a couple of times. He had not changed. His wisdom, coolness of spirit, and knowledge of Scripture will always be the things that come to mind when I think of him or hear his name mentioned. Randy has gone on to his reward, finally embracing the Lord he had preached and worked so diligently for all these years. His congregation will miss him dearly, as will his friends and family. Before I met Randy I worshipped with his son, Josh, while working with the Douglass Hills church in Louisville. Josh was and continues to be a fine man and Christian, a testament to his father's example and training. I looked at several pictures he and his wife posted over the Christmas holiday. There stood Randy, smiling broadly while surrounded by his family. Yes, Randy will be missed by his family. Please pray for them. Yet another saint has gone home. AL

There's A Lesson Here

The holiday season we are in the midst of does not result in the same state of mind for everyone. In fact, the range of emotions experienced by people during the holiday season can range from happiness bordering on euphoria to heartache beyond compare.

The happiness associated with this time of the year has been captured in the song *The Most Wonderful Time of the Year*. *It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year With the kids jingle belling and everyone telling you "Be of good cheer!" It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year! It's the hap -happiest season of all. With those holiday greetings and gay happy meetings when friends come to call! It's the hap - happiest*

season of all!" The song continues, with additional things about the season which brings great happiness.

Yet, this is not a happy, joy-filled season for everyone. Many people find it to be a depressing, distressing time. Perhaps they realize they do not have the financial means to provide gifts like they would desire. Perhaps they have no one to give to or to share the season with. Perhaps the season is a perpetual reminder of a tragic loss which occurred at this time. Numerous are the people who find no joy at all during this holiday season.

It is important to remember, however, that the season comes as the year is closing out. This means that a new year immediately follows. There is something very appealing about the beginning of a new year, and that is the fact that it is new. Newness represents beginning rather than continuing with the old. Newness opens up opportunities for one to change rather than remain mired down with the old. Newness is exciting whereas the old, while it may have a degree of comfort, contains little that one might look forward to. Newness is fresh and does away with things that are stale or damaged. Newness replaces boredom with renewed interest. Newness is attractive, meaning that we are naturally drawn to things that are new. While January 1 may seem in many ways like just another day, we name it January 1 because it was designated a long, long time ago as the first day of a new year. For many people, it is a time of beginning, the beginning of the rest of their lives and a time to incorporate changes they have resolved to make in their lives.

Think about changes you need to make, changes that will improve your health, patch up damaged relationships, replace bad habits with good ones, and, most importantly, make right your standing before God. This is the first of a series of three articles about changing for the better. Each of the next two articles will deal with resolutions you and I might make. Next Sunday the article will be: I am resolved to maximize happiness and joy. The following Sunday the article will be: I am resolved to turn tragedy into triumph.

Happiness and heartache are the two states of mind that seem to be predominant during the holiday season just passed. They occur naturally, but they are not ends in and of themselves. They are merely passing states of mind that should push us to resolve to spiritually renew ourselves so that we might be found pleasing to the Almighty God.

The Elders

Sermons: (AM) Psalm 84

(PM) Considering Bible hearts

Reading: (Am) Luke 21:20-38

(PM) Luke 22:1-23