

# GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

**Volume 44, No. 26, June 27 , 2017** / Southside Baptist Church & Christian

School / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / The Grow in Grace Newsletter **is a weekly Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Saviour JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

## **Going Down into a DARK Pit— WHO Will Hold the Ropes?**

[If memory serves be right, I first obtained the edited account below from a book by Oswald J. Smith, long time pastor, years back, of The People's Church, Toronto, Canada]

**It was January 19, 1888.** Toronto, Canada. The old, historic Knox Church was filled to capacity. The young man and his new bride were addressing their home church for the last time before being sent to an African mission field known then as "The White Man's Grave." **"My wife and I have a strange dread in going. We feel much as if we were going down into a pit. We are willing to take the risk and go if you, our home circle, will promise to hold the ropes."**

They knew they couldn't do it alone. **They were asking for help.** AND everyone present promised to pray, to support, and to stand with their missionaries as they attempted to advance the borders of God's Kingdom. They committed themselves to become prayer partners for this young missionary couple. **Within two years, his wife and new baby were buried in "The White Man's Grave" in Africa.** When this brave young missionary was stricken with the same fatal fever and **realized he, too, was dying,** he decided to return to Canada without informing a single person.

**He arrived at the church precisely at the time of the Wednesday night prayer meeting.** No one noticed as he slipped in and sat on the back pew. As the prayer meeting dutifully came to its close, he went forward. The people were in complete shock as this emaciated broken shell of a man began to speak.

**“I am your missionary. My wife and child are buried in Africa and I have come home to die. This evening I listened anxiously, as you prayed, for some mention of your missionary... but you forgot your missionary.”**

### **Are we faithfully holding the ropes?**

1. Being a house of prayer for trivial needs is not enough. The Church is called to become a house of prayer for all nations.
2. Dare we presume to impact nations apart from prayer?
3. Dare we send men and women to foreign nations, lambs among wolves without proper prayer support?
4. DARE WE TO GO OUT OURSELVES WITHOUT GIVING EACH OTHER PROPER PRAYER SUPPORT?

### **RESPONSE TO THE KNOX CHURCH STORY:**

1. The above story can be read and rejected as just someone trying to place a load of guilt on others and/or trying to use guilt as motivation.
2. We can take the story apart and debate the man's conclusions as to why his missionary journey had such a quick and tragic end.

**3. THERE IS, however, a better and much more needed response we can and MUST make!** Indeed! **(a)** Let us receive a CALL TO PRAYER especially for MISSIONARIES; **(b)** and especially for the many saints of God in Christ who are greatly PERSECUTED; **(c)** and let us seriously PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER!

### **PRAYING FOR ‘Foreign’ / far away MISSIONARIES!**

**THESE Missionaries are people just like us.** They have difficulties and frustrations. They deal with stresses of everyday life. Some are thousands of miles away from family. Some live in cultures so different than that in which they grew up. As we do, they need prayer. The Bible tells us to pray for one another, to pray without ceasing. Jesus modeled a lifestyle of prayer for His children. Through the power of prayer, God's people can change the world and lives of people, here and around the world. **When asked what we can do for them, missionaries ALWAYS respond, "PRAY!"**

**YES, PRAY! BUT 'WHAT' SHALL WE PRAY? OUR PRAYERS ARE ALL TOO OFTEN NOT SPECIFIC TO THE WARFARE THE MISSIONARIES ARE FACING. How to Pray?** One way is to use the 'alphabet' to pray. **LET US** commit to pray the missionaries on our LIST, missionaries we are blessed to know; and also let us pray for the 10,200 plus state, North American, and international Southern Baptist missionaries. **[Author of the following prayer suggestions, unknown]**

**Ability with Language-** ask God to give those who must learn another language the ability to be fluent in their adopted language.

**Boldness-** pray that each will be a bold witness for Jesus.

**Comfort-** pray for God's comfort in times of discouragement, despair, or mourning. **Direction-** ask God to give them specific direction in ministry.

**Energy-** ask God to renew their energy when the tasks seem overwhelming and the body is weary.

**Family Members-** pray that children of missionaries (MKs) will have a sense of God's presence when they're away from their parents. **Glorify**

**God-** ask God to enable missionaries to live each day to glorify God.

**Health-** ask God to give physical and emotional health so missionaries can function effectively.

**Insight-** pray that missionaries will have insight to see people and things from God's perspective. **Joy-** pray that the "joy of the Lord" will be evident in their daily living.

**Knowledge-** pray that missionaries will grow in their personal knowledge of God so they will become all that He intends.

**Love-** pray that God's love will be evident in their lives, love that will draw lost people to the Father.

**Mercy-** pray that missionaries will extend the hand of mercy to those around them.

**Needs-** pray that they will always remember that in Christ all needs will be met.

**Open Doors-** pray that they will recognize all open doors that God provides them for sharing the gospel.

**Power-** pray that missionaries will be strengthened daily by the power of God and will live productive lives.

**Quiet Time-** pray that nothing will keep them from having a quality quiet time with God each day.

**Rapport-** pray that missionaries will have rapport with co-workers and those they serve. **Safety-** pray for their safety in travel, safety from robbers, theft, and the threat of war or revolution.

**Trust-** ask God to help missionaries trust Him in all things and for every situation they face. **Understanding-** as missionaries share the Good News, ask God to give those who hear the gospel the ability to understand who Jesus is, what He did for them, and how they can have eternal life.

**Victory-** pray that each will experience victory in times of spiritual warfare.

**Wisdom-** ask God to give wisdom as decisions are made that affect Kingdom work.

**X-ray Vision-** pray that missionaries will have x-ray vision of the heart and desire a cleansed life.

**Yielded-** pray that each will be completely yielded to Christ and His ways.

**Zealous-** pray that missionaries will be zealous in sharing the gospel.

“And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive.”

Matthew 21:22 (NAS)

[The question is NOT how many times we have sent this out... but whether or not I have ACTED UPON IT in obedience to the LORD!]

## **"THEY WILL ALL BE THERE!"**

Dr. David Gibbs of the Christian Law Association got surprised one Wednesday. His background is Baptist. Few Baptists are faithful to church-wide prayer meetings. But for this particular Wednesday a pastor of a Mennonite church had scheduled Dr. Gibbs to speak during their Wednesday night Prayer Service.

**The church family DID NOT KNOW that a guest speaker was coming.** The Pastor was driving Dr. Gibbs from the airport to the church building. Dr. Gibbs was trying to prepare himself for what he is about to face, so he asked:

*"Pastor, what do you expect tonight in the way of who might show up for the meeting? Pastor, I know it's Wednesday night... and folks do not know I'm coming... I just want you to be at ease, because I'm happy to come and the size of the crowd does not matter..."*

The pastor simply said, **"They will all be there!"** So, Dr. Gibbs translated that 'response' into his Baptist experience and figured that a few would show up for a holy huddle.

They arrived. The building was a plain, unattractive block building. The parking lot was full. Dr. Gibbs entered and found bare concrete floors and bare metal folding chairs— OVER 400 HUNDRED metal folding chairs— and they were all filled with the REGULAR PRAYER MEETING CROWD! As the pastor had earlier stated, **"They will all be there!"... And they were!**

These were farming people, with crops to plant, or tend, or harvest. Their days were always long and their work was never done. **HOWEVER, EVERY WEEK on Prayer Meeting Night— THEY WERE ALL THERE!**

Stunned, Dr. Gibbs turned to the pastor and asked, "Please explain this to me?"

**"Well, Bro. Gibbs,**

**1. We are all family and we are responsible for one another;**

2. And we are commanded to pray for one another;

**3. And we also realize that we need God's wisdom and power if we are to make a difference in our community in reaching others for Christ— So, we have just as many for Prayer meeting as we do for other Church-wide services...**

**4. And, at our Prayer Meeting, the main agenda is PRAYER. We actually spend most of the time praying for each other and for those in the world to whom we seek to reach and minister!"**

**SOUTHSIDE'S CHURCH-WIDE PRAYER MEETING REALITY:** The issue is

(1) Not lack of time, (2) Nor how tired we are, (3) Nor a thousand other excuses— The issue that each of us has to face up to is this: ***What is the level of my LOVE, VISION, PRIORITY, and DEPENDANCE UPON GOD!***

**Grace and blessings to one and all!** James Bell

## **SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:**

**MONDAYS:** Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Contact Mike Munday at 615-681-7533

**TUESDAYS:** Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at 5:30PM.

### **WEDNESDAYS:**

➔ 6:30pm— Children Ministry/activities;

➔ 6:30pm— Youth Activities and Bible Study— (For both of these... enter via double doors by gym)

➔ 6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE... Come in side entrance, iron steps... meet in Ladies Sunday School Room

**\*\*\* LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Studies in the Gospel of Luke! ... Cindy Bell**

teaching. NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, **JULY 11, 2017** @ 11:00am

**NEW LOCATION:** Park at the BACK of church, come in DOUBLE DOORS under the AWNING... Bible Study will be in Dicky Richard's Sunday School Room! **Door will be UNLOCKED by 10:30am... and locked back at 11:10am**

**MEN:** EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am: Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! {*STUDYING the Epistle of First John*} AT THE back of Church building... Come in under the drive-thru awning, walk forward, coffee & biscuits WAITING!

## **Sunday Services:**

**\*\*\* July 2— 9:30am** - Sunday School  
**10:45am** - Worship Service

**SPECIAL NOON MEAL** and the **1pm Early Afternoon Service** will be **A SPECIAL SHOWER OF BLESSINGS** for Tess Momberger and Brian Blaugrund...

**PLEASE COME PREPARED!** Bring your favorite food dish for the Fellowship Meal; and during the 1pm time.... Share words of wisdom and encouragement!

**\*\*\* July 9—**

**9:30am** - Sunday School  
**10:45am** - Worship Service

**NOON MEAL**

**1pm** [Missionaries Tom and Linda Schreeder are scheduled to be with us. Tom will be preaching during the worship hour; and he

and Linda will be sharing of their call back to the mission field during the 1pm service]

**\*\*\* July 16— 9:30am** - Sunday School  
**10:45am** - Worship Service // LORD'S SUPPER  
**NO MEAL & no 1pm service // HOME GROUPS: 5PM-7PM**

**\*\*\* July 23— 9:30am** - Sunday School  
**10:45am** - Worship Service // LORD'S SUPPER  
**Noon MEAL & 1pm Prayer and PRAISE**  
**FAITHFUL MEN: 5:30pm-7:30pm**

**\*\*\* July 30— 9:30am** - Sunday School  
**10:45am** - Worship Service  
**Noon MEAL**  
**1pm [Missionaries Bruce and Laura Harris are scheduled to be with us. Bruce will be preaching during the worship hour; and he and Laura of their work in Japan during the 1pm service]**

**ALSO on July 30.... CHURCH-WIDE 'LET'S JUST PRAISE THE LORD!' SERVICE @ 6:00PM—** *An hour of sharing SCRIPTURES AND CHRIST-HONORING, GOD-GLORIFYING PRAISE... said and/or sung! (Inform Adam Troutt if you have something you desire to share!)*