

PARK HILLS CHRISTIAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

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Published Monthly

October 2006

Volume 11 Issue 7

Did You Know?

A Word Or Two (or three) From Wally

This year's church retreat on the person and book of Ezekiel was very good for me. I sometimes think the teacher gets far more than those listening.

What Ezekiel did in his obedience to the Lord was such an inspiration to me. God told him his life was to be a living parable to illustrate the judgment on Israel and Judah that was to come. At one stage he was told to sleep on one side for 390 days and then turn over and sleep on the other side for 30 days. Ezekiel obeyed.

I'm a person who always wants to know what good it will do. What good was it for Ezekiel to do this? If I don't see the reasoning, I sometimes look for excuses to get out of anything I find uncomfortable. Ezekiel obeyed without complaining about what God asked him to do.

Read Ezekiel. 24: 15-24. Ezekiel is told his wife is going to die and that he is not to grieve publicly, or have the traditional funeral service. God is going to use this event as a living illustration to the people in exile. God took care of all the emotional needs Ezekiel had during this grieving time.

I have learned one important thing from his life and from my life experiences and that is that God expects me to obey Him, regardless of the cost or my fears. My Christian life is not about me but about Him. He wants to use me for the benefit of others.

As I obey, he takes care of the things I need in life and whatever my emotional needs may be. They may not be seen immediately and may never be seen by me, because they fit into a larger picture than I cannot see.

Many of the names in 1 Chronicles chapters 1-10 I do not know. I do not know how godly they were, whether their children obeyed, whether they rebelled or not. I do not need to know. I do know they are listed in the Bible and were people who made an influence in their time.

I won't be listed in the Bible; it's finished. I may not be remembered by anyone in history. Those around me, my family and friends, and God will know whether my life was of value to the kingdom of God or not. My grandchildren and great-grandchildren will be blessed or not, by the legacy I leave. I may never know them or the effects I will make on them, but God does!

All I know is, I need to be the most obedient child of God I can be and leave the reasons and the future to Him.

Just remember the old saying: "Only one life, 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ, will last."

See you Sunday,
Wally

- Kelani Keoho is excelling on the volleyball team At Southwest Assembly of God University. They are 9-2 in wins and losses. Keep standing faithful to the Lord.
- Noah Miller scored 7 goals in his Soccer game on Sept. 16. He is in the 6 and under league.
- Thank you to Elizabeth Miller and Faye Chapman for the hours of work they put in for the church directory. In addition, Jay Gilliland has done a lot of the computer work. Thanks to each of you.
- William Figueria provided safe travel to the retreat by driving the church van. In the past, Wally has driven but he decided no more after nodding off following the last retreat. Thanks for filling the void William.
- Have you checked out the library lately? There are many great books and tapes. The library is by the restrooms.
- The bookstore has re-stocked the books For Women Only and For Men Only. These great books help in understanding the needs and thought processes of the opposite sex. For Young Women Only has just arrived. Each is \$10.
- Oct. 14 is an important day. The forest of weeds around the church needs to be removed, grounds cleaned, and various jobs completed inside. We begin at 9 a.m.
- Oct. 15 see the landscape and locations mentioned in the Bible during the Sunday School hour. The Baldwins will be sharing photos of their recent trip to Israel.
- The church has weekly ads in the Ft. Bliss Monitor and El Paso Times. As visitors arrive make sure you are friendly to those you do not know. Let's not waste the opportunity and investment.
- Kay MacNaughton is moving to Minnesota at the end of Oct. We will have a good by reception for her on Oct. 15, following the service.
- Albert de la Garza, Paul Fleenor, Chris Morgan, and George Morris are preparing to go to Iraq. Pray for them and the families left behind.
- Jessica Rodriguez made the all-tournament team at the Loretto Academy Volleyball Tournament. Congratulations!
- October's Fellowship Dinner is moving from the 2nd Sunday to OCTOBER 29. Our annual Harvest Festival for the whole family will follow the luncheon. Tracts will be available so you can use the 31st to minister to those who visit your home.
- Aulton and Ariel Davis are officers in the Del Valle High School Band. Thanks for using your talents on Sunday morning.
- We want to include a special page in our Photo Directory of all members who have ever served in the military. If you have a picture of yourself in uniform while on active duty please see Faye Chapman.



Allen's Thoughts . . .

*"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My **witnesses** both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."* **Acts 1:8 NASB**

As you were reading this verse did anything jump out at you? That's right, the word witnesses.

These last words of Jesus give each of us our role in the Kingdom of God on earth.

Notice that they don't command us to convict anyone of sin. That is the job of the Holy Spirit.

We are not asked to have all the answers. That is impossible since not even Jesus knew everything. Only His Father knew the time of His return.

Too often we feel like we have been asked to be either judge or jury when we have only been asked to be witnesses.

Webster defines a witness as:

- A. One who has seen or heard something,
- B. One who furnishes evidence,
- C. To be present at or have personal knowledge of

And finally,

- D. To testify to: or bear witness.

What then are we asked to do?

Using this definition, our role as witnesses is simply to tell what we have seen, heard and experienced.

In this case what we have seen Jesus do in our lives and the lives of those we know and love. Jesus never asked us to give second hand information but to share our personal knowledge of his love and power.

So what does this mean to me?

First, I have to have personal knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. I have to have seen Him work in my own life. And I must be willing and able to share that story.

Secondly, I must be looking for God ordained opportunities to share that story and to share my faith.

Finally, I must be willing to allow God the time to work in the life of the one with whom I have shared that story.

If I have spent little or no time with Him in His word or in prayer, not only will I be a lousy witness but will also fail to recognize when I see Him at work around me.

Over the next month try to fill your role as a witness and see if your story can help someone along their path in search of Jesus Christ.

In the next newsletter I will share a couple of exciting times I have had recently doing just that.

Seeking the Harvest with You

Allen

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