

Thursday News

“...that the generation to come might know them...that they might set their hope in God...” -- Psalm 78:6,7

I have heard them and so have you. They are those stock-in-trade, generic, one-size-fits-all, funeral sermons that abound in clichés and clichéd scripture passages that tired pastors pull out of file cabinets. There is little or nothing said of the deceased, but instead, flowery phrases fill up the time and space as the clergyman attempts to perfume the air with feel-good nothingness. In many cases, such perfunctory phraseology is the only alternative because there is nothing much to say about some non-descript lives that have floundered halfway between here and nowhere, registering not even a blip on God’s kingdom view screen. Pity the poor pastor who has to stand and officiate over such a one when to tell the truth would be in plain bad taste or uncomfortable to say the least. But many times, pastors fumble to find concrete terms with which to describe the lives of even good people because there is no hard evidence to tap into. Nothing frustrates a biographer more than to attempt to tell the story of someone who leaves no written record.

I had feared that in the rush to generate a funeral message for my mother that the pastor, who had not known her long, would pull out one of his stock sermons and give it his best generic shot. To try and head it off, I placed in his hands a journal that my mother had written in her latter days. It was really just a daily planner, and her entries were without form and scattered throughout the book in no particular order. Most of her entries were comprised of quotes from other people from books and sermons and wherever. But she had copied them laboriously by hand in her faltering style, and they instantly betrayed her heart and deeply held values. There were quotes from Max Lucado and C.S. Lewis, Charles Swindoll and Billy Graham, plus others not acknowledged. They covered topics such as the role of the Holy Spirit, how to study the Bible, and the amazing story of the change wrought in the HMS Bounty survivors of Pitcairn Island through the discovery of a Bible. I was pleasantly surprised the evening of the funeral to discover that the pastor had found the journal entries compelling reading. He basically used little but these various entries to paint a picture of my mother’s life for they revealed the things she held most dearly. There were not that many pages of writing in this simple book, but it offered ample evidence with which to obtain a verdict and a conviction. Hers was a life centered on the things of God. Little else needed saying. In death, we look for the essence of a person’s life, what interested them, what drove them, what made them who they were. I was amazed how little it took to accurately, I thought, reveal the simple and all-consuming direction of her life. For those who looked at her to admire certain character qualities and traits, here was explanation enough for everything found admirable within.

It need not be long, it need not be eloquent, it need not be profound, and it need not even be original. I left there that night wanting to tell everyone to be sure to leave something behind that will reveal to all who pause and wonder just who you are and why you lived the life you did. Leave tracks, so that others may follow. It may be margin notes in a Bible, a simple journal, a life story, or heartfelt poetry. Whatever the means, make it clear and make it loud if you want folks to know that God’s love compelled you to follow Him and that He did, indeed, change your life.

“If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was made for another world.” -C.S. Lewis (found in Mom’s journal)

Mercy and Truth,
Mr. Moe

Thank You

My family and I would like to give heartfelt thanks to all of the CFC family who supported us this last week through the passing of my mother. Your cards, letters, and gifts of food were so encouraging and your prayers much appreciated. There is no family like the family of God. May you be blessed in return in your hour of need. –Mr. Moe

Spelling Bee

Congratulations to all of our students on a good day of spelling bees this past Monday. You will find a list of the results from the bees in the folder. Our school-wide spelling bee will be held on Wednesday, December 10, 2008, in the sanctuary of WTCC, starting at 1:00 p.m. This will be a championship spell-off with the 1st and 2nd place winners from each class in the 3rd grade and up. CFC spectators are welcome to come to the event.

Rotation Help

We have two different rotation shifts that are in need of some more willing workers. Each month, we have a staff meeting at WTCC. It is always on a Wednesday. The rotation shift is from 12:30 until 2:30 p.m. The responsibility is to care for the children of the faculty and staff members in the gym during the staff meeting. This shift counts for one full month's rotation since it is after school hours. The other shift in need of workers is the FCoN position, which is from 10:00 a.m. until noon. The responsibilities include helping with P.E., K4 snack time, and office work. If you are willing to work these shifts, please contact Wanda Martinson at wasmon@aol.com. Thanks!



Grade Reports

All students should have received grade reports from the teachers by today. Be sure and sign or initial your child's grade report and return it to the teacher so she can have it in time to record the next six weeks' grades.

Yearbook Business Sponsors Needed

Instead of Business Ads in our yearbook, we have the opportunity for five Business Sponsors per year. Sponsorship is tax deductible. If you are a business owner and would like more information about how to sponsor our school yearbook, contact Michelle Wilkins at 693-4206 or michellewilkins@bellsouth.net.

Yearbook Pictures Needed

If you have pictures from parties, field trips, chapel or other class functions, please send them to us! We can't put those great pictures of your children in the yearbook if we don't have them. We prefer digital format, if possible. Please submit your discs to the office, and they will get them to us. Please put your name on the disc in case we have any problems with the format. If you have any questions, please contact Michelle Wilkins at 693-4206 or michellewilkins@bellsouth.net.

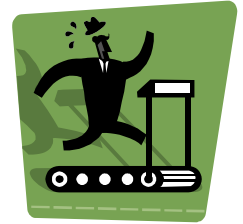


Flu Mist

If you are interested in the flu mist, we have found out that the Knox County Health Department gives the flu mist to children who are residents of Knox County for no charge. Adults can get it for \$20.00.

Results from Endure for the Cure

Mr. Bevins has raised over \$1300 so far for Thompson Cancer Survival Center with his “Endure for the Cure” event this past Tuesday. He exercised for eight hours straight! He ran on a treadmill, rode a stationary bike, used an elliptical machine, used an arm bike, and did 500 push-ups!! Two local TV stations came out to do a story on him while he was exercising. He even got a flu shot in the middle of all of it (without stopping the exercising). Way to go, Mr. B!!



Diagnostic Testing

We have set up a date and time for some diagnostic testing of students. This is a reading diagnostic test that identifies a student’s strength and weakness in the following areas:

- Short-term auditory memory and auditory discrimination
- Short and long-term visual memory and discrimination
- Spelling, language level, and phonics
- Reading accuracy and comprehension
- Eye convergence, laterality, and ocular motility

This test is prepared and given by Powerline Programs. You can find out more about this organization at their web site, www.powerlinereading.com. The local consultant is Gigi Alderman. Her e-mail address is gigi@gigialderman.com. The diagnostic testing is scheduled for Wednesday, November 19 at WTCC right after school (12:45). The cost is \$105.00 per student. If you are interested in having your student(s) participate in this testing, please contact the CFC office.