Family Matters

NEWS AND REMINDERS FOR THE TEHACHAPI CHURCH OF CHRIST FAMILY

January 5, 2024



"The finance committee says we need to stop building bridges to the community and start building toll roads."

John the Baptist described himself as a roadbuilder. I guess I've never thought of myself as having the same role. He came to prepare the way for the Lord, Then, when Jesus came, it might seem like that job was obsolete. The Lord was here, so follow the road to him and then continue on that path!

While it is true that we should not describe ourselves as followers of John the Baptist, we should follow his example and continue his work. He was not only identifying Jesus as Lord, but helping people open their hearts to the Lord's way of life—his Spirit—the Holy Spirit! He was helping them find the way to get there.

How can we do that? It is unlikely that we will literally be voices in the desert, as John was. However, it seems increasingly clear that there are many people around us who are living in desperation, and feeling deserted. We can be voices calling out with hands reaching out to show them the way to the One who will never desert them!

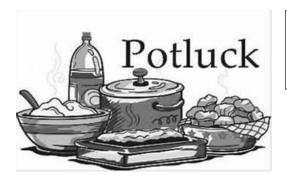
-Mark

...BELIEVE IT OR NOT...

Roadbuilding for Dummies

John 1:19-34

Potluck next Sunday!



We will be honoring Daniel Corfman's December graduation for Freed Hardeman University!

Women's Group

A new study will probably begin this Tuesday! Text Brenda for details.

A prayer for those who put too much "Christmas" on charge cards:



"Forgive us our debts as we forgive those who call to harass us about our debts..."

Remember in Prayer:

Pray for the Mike, Aaron, Ruthie, and all of the Grimes family in the sudden loss of **Jason**, Mike's younger brother! **Kayla** has been back in the hospital and is seeing new doctors. Pray for their insight!

Minnie is doing okay after her knee surgery. Minnie's brother **Nathan** had to postpone a triple bypass surgery due to a painful blood clot in his left leg. He is still waiting. Her brother, **Mark** has suffered from Covid and diabetic keto acidosis. **Brandy** fell and damaged her coccyx. This is very painful!

Gene and Laurie Studer, the parents of Cindy's son-in-law, Stephen, both had strokes just before Christmas. Gene has had multiple strokes and is not doing well.

Cheryl's daughter-in-law, **Jessica** was diagnosed with Valley Fever, then she was told it was not Valley Fever. Now they say that the first diagnosis was correct. She is improving.

Cheryl's other daughter-in-law **Carla** in Santa Maria had surgery at USC to remove a tumor that was lodged in her shoulder bone.

Ken had surgery to remove some kind of nerve blockage in his neck. The neuro-surgeon was pleased with everything at his checkup last week. He will be in a neck brace two more weeks.

Ruthie's nephew, Will Burgett, is on hospice and has been getting weaker.

Ruthie's sister-in-law, Cheryl White passed away recently. Pray for her husband, Jim.

Steven Stansbery was treated at Adventist Hospital in Bakersfield after suffering severe back pain as a result of an abscess around his spine. He is now recovering at home.

Continue prayers for Maxine King, mother of Melissa.

Galina Gurova, a friend of Melissa, needs healing from lymphoma

In addition to his near total paralysis, **Kirk Stewart** has painful cancerous sores on his head, and radiation treatments have been ineffective. Pray for him in the loss of Pat as well.

Bob Rivera's hip is healing, so no surgery is planned after all.

Bob asks for prayers for his son, **Joseph** who is in Israel working security as a contractor.

Mina is walking without the brace, and is with her kids in Germany!

Morgan Gibson's dad has returned to the nursing home, and the infection in his leg will be treated with antibiotics..

Vicki and Ken's daughter-in-law's mother, Priscilla, is being treated for pancreatic cancer. Pray for successful surgery, treatment, and comfort for the family.

Karen's friends, Jon and Wayne, and colleagues, Trish, and Tommy, all have cancer.

Always Remember:

Those in the military, especially **Joseph Budai**, and **Sheri Huckabay's** nephew, **Jason Adams**, **Patty Johnson**'s grandson, **Andrew Thompson**, and **Gaylen Gibson**

The children and staff at Manuelito Navajo Children's Home

Those serving in other mission fields, including Blair's friend Sandeep in India

Pray for the homeless, and pray for **Blair** as he works to minister to them.

Those suffering in Ukraine, Russia, Israel and Gaza, and in other "hot spots" around the world.

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Schedule of Weekly Services and other meetings

Sunday AM Bible Class – 9:30am AM Assembly – 10:30am

Monday

Al-Anon is meeting at 7:00pm*

Tuesday

Alcoholics Anonymous is meeting at 6:00pm*

Wednesday

Al-Anon is meeting at noon* PM Bible Study – 7:00pm

Thursday

Al-Anon is meeting at 7:00pm*

Friday

Alcoholics Anonymous is meeting at 7:00pm*

Saturday

Men's AA meeting at 8:00am, and Women's AA meeting at 9:30am*

*Al-Anon and Alcoholics Anonymous are not direct ministries of the church, but their purposes are supported by the church, and they meet in our Fellowship Room.

Minister: Mark Bixler

Elders: Derek Demus & Bill Willingham

What plans might God have for your life?

Jesus personally intervened in the life of Saul on the road to Damascus. Saul had made it his mission to persecute followers of Jesus. A man named Ananias was sent to Saul to tell him that God had very different plans for his life. Ananias said to Saul, "...what are you waiting for?

Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:3-16) If you might be on the wrong path, it would be our privilege to help you discover God's plans for your life! Ask for a personal Bible study on the Welcome Card, or contact Mark Bixler.

Mark Bixler's office hours by appointment

Call or text: 818-470-5793 Email: marklbixler@yahoo.com

Elder of the Month:

Bill Willingham