

Teen News

Thanks to everyone who stayed for the DEVO last Sunday night. We had a great time! I appreciate those who are making time and putting in effort to attend church and youth activities. Also thank you Clint Ellis for helping us with our singing. You did a great job!! I would like to thank Elvin, Destiny and Kendall for going to the shut ins and giving flowers to them. I know that they really appreciated the flowers and for seeing all of you. This Wednesday night the Jr. High and Sr. High class will meet in the activity building at 6:15. We will have a meal, devotional and play games. Tonight after church we are playing volleyball!! (Youth vs. Adults) Please invite as many friends as you can. All adults are welcome to play too! See ya tonight.
Ben

“JUST LIKE A LITTLE BIRD”

There is the story of a little bird that was being chased by a much larger bird of prey. The little bird flew to save its life, darting about while being pursued by the larger bird. The little bird quickly flew into a crevice in a rock face, inside the cleft in the rock. The larger bird gave up. The little bird had found shelter in the rock, out of reach from fearsome claws. It's life was saved. How like the little bird are we!

Keep in mind that *“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty”* (Ps. 9:1). “He will cover you with His pinions and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark” (Ps. 91:1).
DAN

HAVE YOU CRIED LATELY?

Some people just don't get it, do they? William Tolar related the following (Reader's Digest, 9/2005, p 134). “I was sitting in a cafeteria recently, next to a woman who was engrossed in her newspaper. One of the headlines blared: '12 Brazillian Soldiers Killed.' She shook her head at the sad news. Then, turning to me she asked, 'How many is a Brazillian?' " Sounds like she was a cup short of a full cupboard, doesn't it?! Some things call for deeper thinking or you miss the point. Like this statement by Jesus in Matthew 5:4 (chew on these words carefully) — "Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted." Say what, Jesus? "Blessed are those who mourn," or, more plainly, "Happy are those who mourn," or even more plainly, "Happy are the unhappy." Today the pursuit of happiness and pleasure is in overdrive. Our culture seeks to avoid mourning and unhappiness at all costs. Now, the Gospel does not call Christians to a sad-sack, sour-puss way of life. Joy and the abundant life Jesus provides pop up frequently as you read the New Testament. But still, there is the message expressed in Matthew 5:4 — from the same Lord who often taught His disciples to rejoice! I'm not asking us to be sad-sacks — Christians can 'rejoice in the Lord always" (Philippians 4:4). I'm just asking, is there no sin for the church to mourn over these days? Jesus wept over evil in the world, and in Matthew 5:4 He promises comfort to those who mourn over how sin affects our relationship with God. How often does sin make us sad enough to mourn? God's comfort can't come to a dry-eyed church. Think about it.
DAN

DOOR GREETERS Sept. 21, 2014

Jim and Geri Hahn

COMMUNION PREPARATION Sept. 21, 2014

James & Sandy Singleterry

Gospel Worker

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MINISTERS

Dan D. Manuel
Pulpit Minister
Ben Rhone
Youth Minister

ELDERS

Dan D. Manuel
Dale Sparks

DEACONS

Henry Baker
Sam Ellis
Dwight Franklin
Adam Harding
Kyle Lock

SECRETARY

Lorelee Reeder

MISSIONS & OUTREACH

Brown Trail School of Preaching, Bedford, TX
Jose Cuadras—Mexico School of Preaching
Hershel Bearden
India Mission
Central TX Children's Home—Buda, TX
Tipton Children's Home
Tipton, OK
GBN T.V. NETWORK
GIVE ME THE BIBLE
T.V. Program
KETK-56 Tyler, TX.
FOX 44—Waco, TX.
FOX 29, Bryan-College Station, TX.
NBC 53—Lufkin, TX.
ASSEMBLY TIMES
Sun: 9:30 AM Class
10:30 AM Worship
6:00 PM Evening
Wed: 7:00 PM

“The Cleft of the Rock”

There are two round top hills with a rocky area between known as “Devil’s Den” on the Old Gettysburg battle field. It became a place of refuge during the fierce battle. Following the battle, many bodies were retrieved of soldiers seeking refuge “in the cleft of the rock.” What was hoped to be protection became a vault by which they were entrapped. We wing about a place of refuge. We have been promised refuge during times of threat and harm which cannot be penetrated by the most cunning enemy. David had found refuge in God’s protective custody many times about which he wrote with these words: *“I love you, O Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call to the Lord, who is worthy of praise, and I am saved from my enemies”* (Ps. 18:1-3). God’s glory is seen from the Rock as is expressed by the words of the old song, “Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee”. I find comfort in the passage where God told His people of the Exodus that *“There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock”* (Ex. 23:21-23). Some tell a story of a little bird that was being chased by a much larger bird of prey. The little bird flew to save its life, darting about while being pursued by the larger bird. The little bird quickly flew into a crevice in a rock face, inside the cleft in the rock. The larger bird gave up. The little bird had found shelter in the rock, out of reach from fearsome claws. It’s life was saved. How like the little bird are we! Keep in mind that *“He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty”* (Ps. 9:1). “He will cover you with His pinions and under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield and bulwark” (Ps. 91:1). The wonderful and warm embrace of our heavenly Father is a place of refuge and not a “Devil’s Den.” When we try to find comfort in the clutches of alcohol, drugs, sex, money or so many other cares of the world by which we are surrounded, they become a prison and not a refuge. We must take confidence and courage in knowing that our God is our protectorate and never a threat! **Adapted**

One baptized into Christ. Welcome Visitors.



From Dan's desk:

Last Sunday morning, EMERALD ELLIS responded to the invitation of our Lord to be baptized. She had been baptized a number of years ago, and wanted to be re-baptized, having come to a deeper understanding of commitment to Christ. We rejoice with her and commend her for making this decision. The Tipton Children's Home came from Tipton, OK. this last Tuesday to pick up items donated by the congregation here. We appreciate those who responded to the call to provide items for them. The Home in Tipton is doing a great work. They have a number of young people who are orphans or those who have been taken away from their parents because of abuse of some type. We have been helping to support this good work for several years. It is good to have a benevolent heart. Our thanks to Rodney Langley who spoke last Wednesday night during our summer series. His topic was "The Benevolent Heart". Rodney did a good job in presenting his lesson and I am sure that we all gained much from what he had to say. He is the minister for the Groveton Church of Christ. He is also a periodic speaker on the "Give Me The Bible" program. Fall is in the air. The cooler weather and good rain that we have had in recent days has been a blessing. I always enjoy the change of weather. Fall has become one of my favorite seasons. Thanks to the youth for presenting flowers to the grandparents last Sunday morning. It was deeply appreciated by all. Thanks for being with us today. We hope to see you tonight at the evening service at 6 P.M. DAN

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES



TO KEEP IN OUR PRAYERS

GRAHAM WILLIAMS is recovering from gallbladder surgery this last week.

DEE RICARD continues to improve and undergo rehab for her recent hip replacement surgery.

MAURINE GRIMES remains about the same at Cartmell Home.

NIKKI SATTERWHITE is getting ready to undergo a bone marrow transplant as a result of her leukemia. She is in Baylor hospital.

ADAM BRUMLEY, brother of Beth Freeman, has a mass on his pancreas & liver.

All others who have been ill are improving. Continue to pray for those with ongoing illnesses. A prayer list is available in the foyer.

RESPONSE BAPTIZED EMERALD ELLIS

WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN?

Some of our members are participating in a program called Loaves & Fishes. We support the children in Central Texas Children's Home by sending \$10. a month to the home. Our bulletin board is the last one on the left in the hall toward the small chapel. You may pay monthly or yearly, or however you like, cash or check. I will mail it in each month. If you would like to give or have questions, contact Toni Warren- 903/876-4753 or at church. This is a worthy cause to help these children grow up with the gospel.

WHY DO PEOPLE LEAVE THE LORD

(1) *The wrong kind of companions, as in the case of Simon Peter* (Lk. 22:54-62). The future apostle "sat down among" the wrong kind of people. Soon thereafter he denied the Lord three times (Vs. 61). "Evil companionships corrupt good morals" (1 Cor. 15:33).

(2) *The love of money, as in the case of Judas Iscariot* (Mt. 26:14-25). Judas' heart was "in the bag" in the sense that he loved too much its contents (Jn. 12:6). Paul said that covetousness is idolatry (Col. 3:5). Many have been led away from God who loved too much the power of money (1 Tim. 6:17).

(3) *Self-satisfaction, as in the case of the church of Christ at Laodicea* (Rev. 3:14-22). Robert R. Taylor, Jr., has correctly depicted this ancient church of Asia Minor by saying, "Laodicea is a sad synonym for lukewarmness, disinterest, lack of zeal, heartless-ness, iniquitous indolence and lethal lethargy. They were a congregation on the certain way to hell and did not care. It bothered them not one iota" (Ripley Beacon, Sept. 9, 1990). If we are not moving upward and onward (spiritually), we are sliding backward and downward.

(4) *Returning to false religion, as in the case of the Galatian and Hebrew brethren* (Gal. 5:1-4; Heb. 6:4-6). Judaizing teachers who confused people with extra demands insisting that circumcision and the Mosaic Law were needed in addition to the cross effected the Galatian churches. The Hebrew Christians had been reared in the religion of Moses for fifteen centuries. The design of the Hebrews epistle is to show the excellencies of Christianity over Judaism. When people are converted out of denominationalism to Christ they are sometimes subjected to pressure from relatives and friends to return to Babylon. If they do not grow in their knowledge of the Bible they may be easily enticed to fall back into false religion.

D. Gullege