

Eisenhower Church of Christ

To All Parents Who Have Lost Children to the World.

The title of this article may jolt you as you begin reading it, but yes, I am talking to you who have lost children to the world whether they are not in faithful attendance (all services of the church) for any reason or whether they are now in a denomination. You have experienced a terrible loss and our concern goes out to you.

For some this has recently happened and for others your children have been gone from the Lord's church many years. No matter which is your case, please continue to read this important message.

Our Lord anticipated such when He spoke to His disciples (Matthew 10) concerning the fact that there would be divisions in families over Him. Every person must make the choice to choose who their master will be (Matthew 6:24; 7:13).

How did this happen? Think back for a moment. Did you miss the signs of straying from the truth? Maybe there were little excuses or there was the rebellion to attend on Wednesday night, then Sunday night and so to avoid a hassle you let the child alone and did not press them to regularly attend with you. Did you seek help from the elders or the preacher at the time this was going on? Did you think—this soon will pass—and all will be right? Or, did pride enter into the picture and you failed to gain help in saving the soul of your child?

But suppose you did sound the alarm and the elders did truly try to save your child's soul and the preacher attempted to also, even grandparents and friends came to your aid, but your child still went into a life of sin. Now what?

Sometimes the parent pleads; "don't close the door on my child"; "don't be too hard on them"; don't turn them away or off." But here are the facts. They have left the truth, and as Peter put it, they are now "entangled" in the "pollutions of the world" (2 Peter 2:20). And we, the church, have possibly done very little or nothing to stop them or get them back (for which we are deeply sorry about and want to correct). We—the church—must follow the Scriptures or be in danger of losing "our first love" (Revelation 2:4).

But, in some cases it is the parents who must be convinced the love of God is to be carried out even in disciplining members of the Lord's body who have strayed from the truth—even though they might be YOUR children. We parents sometimes block the working of the power of the gospel because we will not support the elders/preacher and concerned members trying to reach children who have gone astray. I have even heard of parents making threats to an eldership over their attendance if any sort of discipline was attempted with their children. Oh, how immature can we be? In some cases, the names of those who are not attending have been quietly deleted from the directory, which is not the right way to handle any type of disciplinary action. Or, the weak members have been encouraged to seek attendance somewhere else so that discipline will not have to be done, but later it is found out they never placed membership anyplace, but are now gone. I am quite sure God would be greatly displeased with anyone who followed such a course of action. I pray we have not done so!

We need to individually and collectively be concerned for the spiritual well-being of every member of the Lord's body. When members begin to miss services, say and do things not in accordance with God's will, we should inquire as to their thinking, problem and/or situation because we love their soul (Hebrews 10:24-25; Galatians 6:1) and are concerned. If I, as a member, do not get a scriptural answer, then I call an elder and ask him for assistance.

That elder will inform the other elders and the preacher, so that they may assist in rescuing a soul (Jude 22-23).

Maybe we have lost children because they knew and expected this kind of help, but did not get it. Maybe we have lost children because they looked at us as hypocrites; for we teach, preach and mouth words of love, but then do not carry through. Could be! Yet, we find some parents have done everything they could and still lost their children to the pull of the world/denominationalism (2 Timothy 4:10). But that must not stop the church from acting correctly in the sight of God. We cannot just forget about people and be right with God.

If you have read this far maybe you have someone on your mind who needs spiritual help—do not hesitate so ask for help—do not let pride get in your way—do not be silent any longer to attempt to save a soul. Let us work together to preserve and save as many souls as possible in doing all the will of God. — Dave Dugan

Sympathy

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the family of **Inocencio Munoz, Sr.** Inocencio passed away on Wednesday, January 17th at his home in Midland. His viewing was last Tuesday 6—8 pm at the Sunset Memorial Funeral Home. Funeral services were conducted by his son, Jr. Munoz, on Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. also at Sunset. Inocencio was 89.

Also, our condolences go out to Greg Hodges, Loyce Driver and Shona Wood and their families in the loss of **Glenda Driver** who passed from this life last Saturday, January 20th. Glenda suffered from COPD. She was buried in DeLeon, TX. Keep both these families in your prayers.

Prayer Requests

LaDonna Chism is in MCH fighting pneumonia and also the Flu. Prayers are being requested for her speedy recovery.

Concerns Update

Truett Thixton's second brain surgery was a success. They were able to remove the rest of the cancer. Keep Truett in your daily prayers. He is Kamryn Wesson's cousin.

Prayer List

Mary Anchondo; Maria Baeza; Irene Balerio; Ameer Blumenauer; Mary Brown; Jim Burson; Naomi and Adelynn Bustillos; Glenna Callendar; Arthur Campos; Sylvia Campos; John Carroll; LaDonna Chism; Jon Easley; Cathy Eastwood; Daniel Eastwood; Hattie Gilmore; Paul Gunn; Doug Guynn; Brent Harrell; Lon & Lana Howard; Vanessa Machuca; Leigh Ann McFarland; Charlene McFatter; Keith Mitchell; Milous Mitchell; Juan & Estella Morolez; Bruce Plyler; K' Lynn Roberts; Linda Straw; Truett Thixton; Marilyn Upshaw; Terresia Weaver; Carolyn Wilkerson; John Wood; Wilene Wright.

Eisenhower's Homebound....

Glenna Callendar; Joyce Drake; Kathy Marshall; Janelle Shirley and Marilyn Upshaw.

Remember to keep all of our sick, shut-ins, the bereaved, our military and the spiritually weak in your daily prayers.

Events

Watch "***In Search of the Lord's Way***" Sunday mornings at 7:30 am on KWES TV 9

Just a reminder: **Jeff Miller, Ph.D.** will be here on April 19th, 20th and 21st to present lessons on "Fossils" deposited in the earth's foundation proving evidence of God's creation model. We encourage everyone to attend if at all possible.

Office News...

Ladies, you are invited to a “**Baby Shower**” honoring Kamryn Wesson on Saturday, February 10th at 10:00 a.m. at Bonnie Sorenson’s home. Selections are at Baby List.com and La Bebe. It is suggested, in lieu of a baby shower card, to please consider a baby book instead. Come and join in on the fun and celebration.

Today is our “**Potluck Luncheon**” after our morning service followed by our evening service in the auditorium. All our visitors are welcome.

The Great Character of Nehemiah

There are many great characters in the Old Testament. One of those characters is Nehemiah. He is the principal character in the book that bears his name. A study of this book acquaints the reader with a man of great stature. The following reasons support this fact.

- 1) He was a man who exchanged a life of ease and luxury for a life of toil, danger and heartaches (Nehemiah 2:5). He was the king’s cupbearer, which was not a difficult job. It entitled him to many favors in the king’s palace, but he chose rather to go to Jerusalem, repair the walls and suffer with his people, than enjoy the ease of royal employment. His heart was with his people and that is where he wanted to be. He was willing to sacrifice.
- 2) He was a man of prayer. This short book records several prayers of Nehemiah. This shows that he was living in close fellowship with God. His prayer life demonstrates his faith in God and his dependence on the Father. Prayer is a means of enlisting the power of God that makes us all enablers for the work that needs to be done.
- 3) He was a man able to inspire and motivate others to work (2:17-18). After he met with the group and informed them of the situation, the people said, “Let us rise up and build...” I would like to know all that he did and said to this group to cause them to respond in such a way to repair the walls in 52 days even in the face of opposition! Our leader, who is Jesus, speaks to us and we, too, should say, “Let us rise up and build.”
- 4) He was a man with the right attitude toward the work of God (6:3). His enemies tried to set up a meeting with him, but he said, “I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down; why should the work cease...?” Evidently, he believed one can accomplish more by doing than by talking. He had a singleness of purpose and he allowed nothing to distract him.
- 5) He was a man who gave God the credit (2:12; 7:5). This is the essence of greatness—to serve others and to give God the credit. Nehemiah was not in it for his own glory, but for God’s.

God used this ordinary man to do a great work for Him. I am confident that one of the reasons that Nehemiah’s life is recorded in the Bible is to encourage us in our work for the Lord. Our accomplishments may not be as dramatic in the eyes of man, but I am confident that God looks upon our efforts with favor. We will never know to what extent our efforts are being used by God for the furtherance of the Gospel. Let us not become weary in well doing.

—Herb Smith

January 28th, 2024	A.M.	P.M.
Announcements	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Song Leader	Steve Easlon	Caleb York
Sermon	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Opening Prayer	Allen Weakland	Allen Weakland
Scripture Reading	David Ryan	David Baldwin
Second Prayer	Richard Siler	Larry May
Closing Prayer	Cody Wesson	Jeff Wesson

Lord's Supper

Jacob Carson
Craig Wesson
Scot Straw
Trini Wood

Bill Ryan
Communion
(In Library)

Other Responsibilities: *Elder:* Allen Weakland 254-8209— *Deacon:* Jacob Carson 940-3775— *Pulpit:* Tommy Garcia 312-5332— *Table:* Bill Ryan 272-5507 — *Song Leaders:* Cody Wesson 934-4646 — *Recording Sermons:* Cody Wesson *Contributions:* Tommy Garcia

Sunday AM

“Life & Tough Stuff”
(II Corinthians 1:3-7)

Sunday PM

“Question for Pharoah”
(Exodus 10:3)

Our Records

Bible Class... 62
Morning Worship...97
Evening Worship ... 57
Wednesday...78
Contribution...\$4,202.25