

Clay's Corner

I spent several hours on the phone over the course of the last two or three of weeks talking a couple through a very difficult time in their lives. They have two sons, both adopted. Each came with his own unique problems. Each son was "rescued", so to speak, from a life of uncertainty by two people who have spent their lives committed to God and to each other. The oldest son is now in college. The youngest is in junior high.

I cannot share with you their problem. I can share with you however the glory of their triumph. Today, as of this writing, is completely different for this family of four than it was before I had a sit-down, face-to-face visit with them in San Angelo, Texas this past Sunday evening.

We met in my oldest daughter's home. After everyone met and greeted each other, my family retreated to the back rooms of the house to allow this family privacy with me. And I preached, I encouraged and I prayed. The picture that stood before them before we met was bleak at best. There was no hope. There was no recourse. The future events and circumstance for this family had already been cast in stone by the powers that be. And the dad was angry, his heart beginning to show signs of hardening. The wife, and mother of these boys, was in tears and her heart was completely broken. And as I struggled with my own weakness, I inwardly prayed for wisdom to lead this family forward into the uncertain days of darkness that lay ahead. And it was at this point that God "showed up".

I am still smiling as I reflect on the events of Sunday night, where even my own faith was being tested by circumstances completely beyond my knowledge and control, and the phone message I received Monday evening.

When Paul told the church in Rome, "And we know that for those who love God, all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose," he wasn't just trying to cheer them up. He firmly believed and meant what he said.

And when God told Isaiah, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts," He was giving hope where there had been no hope before.

I shared these two passages with this family, along with several other passages from scripture. I talked with them. I encouraged them. I spoke boldly and firmly with them. I challenged them to resist the devil without fear. And then I prayed with them.

As they stood up to leave, I could see a sense of determination to press on in the face of uncertainty and hopelessness that was not there when they first arrived. There was hope now, where none existed before. Their future held nothing but hurt and uncertainty when they arrived. Their future was back in God's hands when they left. And Monday morning, our prayers were answered. The dad called and left me a message Monday afternoon. And I have been smiling ever since. God is Good. God hears our plight. And God still works all things for good for those who love and trust Him. May God always be glorified in our lives.

PRAYER LIST

- **Monty Allen** (Susan Barnick's friend's brother—cancer)
- **Pauline Alvarez** (recovering from knee surgery, 845 S Magnolia, Luling, TX 78648)
- **Lauren Babb** (health)
- **Brooke Bertling** (Haley Ratliff's friend—breast cancer)
- **Terry Boaz** (Haley Ratliff's step-mother—health, Hendrick Hospital, Abilene, Room 7094)
- **Kelli Boyles** (Babbs' friend—health)
- **Ty Brooks** (Winegeart's grandson—recovering from ankle surgery)
- **Dawn Clark** (Shirley Kuchynka's daughter)
- **Betty Cox** (Brent Barnick's sister—homebound, rheumatoid arthritis)
- **David Davis** (Joyce Faires's brother—job hunting)
- **Eric Davis and Rose**
- **Helen Davis** (recovering from hip surgery)
- **Joyce Faires** (knee)
- **Lance Fougerat**
- **Keith Glass** (health)
- **Chestly Gobar, Jordyn and Lucy**
- **Herb Hahn** (health)
- **Sandra Jetton** (health)
- **The Family of Jane Johnson**
- **Jacque Jungbauer** (Moerbes' friend—recovering from back surgery)
- **Katy and Family** (Kelly Mason's friends—Katy's sister injured in motorcycle accident)
- **Evlynn Lawrence** (Sweeneys' granddaughter)
- **Justen Lawrence**
- **Guy Lowe** (Clay Mason's friend—health)
- **Leanne Mason** (recovering from surgery)
- **Family of Gladys Moerbe** (Randy's mother)
- **Claudia Morris** (Perry Winegeart's sister—health)
- **Sid Roberts** (Faireses' friend—health)
- **Paris, Lexus & Maelyn Robertson** (Johnsons' friends—Maelyn born 10 weeks premature)
- **Lewis Romain and the country of Dominica** (storm damage)
- **Ruth** (Joyce Faires's sister-in-law)
- **Sharon Saint** (Zach Babb's mother—recovering from surgeries)
- **Maria Vasquez** (Joyce Faires's neighbor—health)
- **Lorin Watson** (Victoria Johnson's father—health)

If you have any announcements or prayer requests you wish to have included in the bulletin or to sign up for weekly e-mail updates, please contact Victoria Johnson: 325-518-9205, victoria@gonzaleschurchofchrist.org.

PRAYER UPDATES

We extend sympathy to the family and friends of **Jane Johnson**, Susan Barnick's boss, who passed away on Tuesday. A funeral service was held Friday at First United Methodist Church.

Maelyn Robertson was born Thursday at 10 weeks early. She is in the hospital in Abilene. Her parents are Paris and Lexus Robertson, friends of Kevin and Victoria Johnson.

Pauline Alvarez is at her son's home in Luling (845 S Magnolia, Luling, TX 78648) for about a month while she recovers from knee replacement and undergoes physical therapy. She is greatly appreciative of any notes, calls, or visits.

Terry Boaz, Haley Ratliff's step-mother, is at Hendrick Hospital in Abilene, room 7094 (1900 Pine Street, 79601). She has an infection in her leg and will be in the hospital for six weeks as the doctors had to remove all of the hardware from her leg, and the leg must remain open until the infection is cleared. At that point, they will replace the hardware and do a total knee replacement. If this procedure is unsuccessful, they will have to amputate the leg.

Kelli Boyles, the Babbs' friend from Zavalla, suffered a brain aneurysm on Monday and was care-flighted to Houston where she remains on life support. Kelli is 37 years old, a wife, and mother of four children.

Sandra Jetton requests prayers as she continues to struggle with mixed connective tissue disease, an autoimmune disease. She is hopeful the latest increase in medicines will help.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note: Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, we will not meet at the building Wednesday evening. Also, there is no 5th Sunday fellowship meal next Sunday.



Service Sunday: Operation Christmas Child

Today at 2 p.m. in the annex we are having packing party for Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan's purse. **We are packing shoebox gifts for boys and girls ages 5-9.** If you have not had a chance to shop, it's not too late. You may pick up a shopping list in the foyer and bring your items to the party. Also, if you have any cardboard shoeboxes, or like-sized boxes, or Christmas wrapping paper please bring those to the party, as well.

Following the packing party, we will travel to The Heights for our monthly singing.

Special tracking labels are available for a \$7 donation. If you would like to contribute to a tracking label, you may bring money to the packing party or visit the online donation station in the foyer after church this morning.

Service Sunday: Singing at The Heights

Today is our monthly time of singing and fellowship with the residents at The Heights nursing home (701 N Sarah Dewitt, Gonzales) at 3:30 p.m. We hope everyone can join us!

Monthly Men's Meeting

Today the men have their monthly meeting at 4:30 p.m. at the building.



Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's ISF Thanksgiving meal possible—either by preparing food or attending the meal. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the food and a nice time was had by all!

New Teacher Rotation

The new Bible study teacher rotation begins on **Wednesday, Dec. 2**. Please see the back for details. Please make note of the new Wednesday evening classes, including a combined adults and teenagers class.

Ladies Christmas Party

This year's annual Ladies Christmas Party is on Thursday, **Dec. 10** at 6 p.m. at The Chrismons' house in Shiner. Please bring a \$10-15 gift for our exchange and a dish to share. If you have any questions, please see Jennie Chrismon.

Pancake Supper with Santa

Mark your calendars! On **Youth Sunday, December 13**, we will be having a Pancake Supper with Santa. There will be crafts for the kids, pictures with Santa, hot chocolate, and of course pancakes!

Please sign up in the foyer if you are available to help. We will decorate on Saturday, Dec. 12.

Lighted Christmas Parade

Unfortunately, due to lack of participation, this year's Lighted Christmas Parade float has been cancelled.

Tuesday Morning Men's Meeting

All men are invited to the annex each Tuesday morning at 6:20 a.m. for a time of breakfast, prayer and fellowship.

YOUTH ZONE



MONDAY, NOV. 23
BOYS BASKETBALL
GONZALES VARSITY @ AUSTIN TRAVIS, 8 P.M.

Tyler Hendershot—Gonzales Varsity Boys Basketball