

Remember in Prayer:

The Bereaved:

Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Otis Dodd**, Xenna's brother, who passed away and was buried last week.

The Sick:

Xenna Gooch is still suffering with blood pressure fluctuations. She is at home being closely monitored by her physicians.

Celia Vozka, sister of Dorothy Shaver, will be having exploratory surgery this week to try to find the cause of her continued problems. She previously had a liver biopsy which was normal.

Don & Evelyn Garrett's grandson, **Christopher Purrenhage**, has been in Maury Regional Hospital in Columbia suffering with an upper respiratory infection.

Continue to remember those recovering from sickness, surgery and those dealing with cancer or chronic illness, including **Brownie Spicer, Jean Barte (Teresa's stepfather), Burton Brown (Betty's brother), Cecelia O'Brien and James Tanksley.**

"They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; For the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."
Revelation 7:16-17

News & Notes:

--**Group 3** will meet today in the Library after the morning service.

--**Stanton See** recently expressed a desire to worship with us at Perry Heights. His address and telephone number are listed below. You can also obtain labels in the lobby for your use in updating your directory.

Stanton See
2725 Western Hills Dr.
Nashville, TN 37214
883-7892
seestanton@bellsouth.net
sehstanton@juno.com

--Calendars & Assignment Sheets for February are available in the lobby.

ELDERS: Doug Driver
Johnny Felker
DEACONS: Ralph Brown
Mark Claypool



Service Times

SUNDAY
Bible Study—9:00 am
Worship—9:55 am & 6:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study 7:00 pm

Perry Heights Weekly Bulletin

"...let us consider how we may encourage one another"
Heb. 10:24

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423 Donelson Pike
Nashville, TN 37214
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January 25, 2009

Do You Have Any Honey?

Since most of my childhood was spent in West Texas, I consider myself a connoisseur of good Tex-Mex cuisine. Chicken enchiladas and quail fajitas are two of my favorite dishes. However, the most enjoyable portion of a good Tex-Mex dinner is what comes after the meal... the sopaplia! Although they are usually covered in a little sugar, I still like mine filled with honey. Ummmm! That sweet nectar can sure add a lot to this fine puffy pastry.

The Bible has a little to say about the sweetness of honey. *"My son, eat honey, for it is good, yes, the honey from the comb is sweet to your taste"* (Proverbs 24:13). This sentiment is similar to the well known expression, "Stop and smell the roses." The advice from this wisdom literature is easy to decode: Enjoy what you have especially if it is sweet.

Living a balanced life includes enjoying the sweet things in life. Some folks think godly living is a gloom-filled effort in drudgery. Some even subscribe to a theology that suggests the highest level of spirituality is experienced through pain, isolation, starvation or other forms of self-deprivation. The Bible does not teach that, in fact it says quite the opposite (Col 2:18-23).

So what exactly is this "honey"? May I suggest that most of it is already on your plate.

Husbands should enjoy life and live joyfully with their wives (Eccl. 9:10; Prov. 5:13).

Wives should love the company of their husbands (Prov. 31:12).

Children are blessings from the Lord (Psa. 127:3).

Good friends are sweet because of their sound counsel (Prov. 27:9)

Possessions are to be enjoyed and more importantly can be used to honor God (Prov. 3:9).

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God cannot produce fruit in our lives unless we work with Him to that end.

A fruitful life requires that we _____ barriers to receiving the nourishment of the vine.

Lack of _____

And those beside the road are those who have heard; then the devil comes and takes away the word from their heart, so that they may not _____ and be saved. (Lk. 8:12)

Lack of _____

And those on the rocky soil are those who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no firm root; they believe for a while, and in time of temptation _____ . (Lk. 8:13)

Lack of _____

And the seed which fell among the thorns, these are the ones who have heard, and as they go on their way they are _____ with worries and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to maturity. (Lk. 8:14)

A fruitful life requires that we _____ the leading of the Holy Spirit.

And the seed in the good soil, these are the ones who have _____ the word in an honest and good heart, and _____ it fast, and bear fruit with _____ . (Lk. 8:15)

But the _____ of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. (Gal. 5:22-23)

We cannot be fruitful without the help of God; but in order for God to help us we must cooperate with Him! *So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. (Phil. 2:12-13) Are you working with God or against Him?*

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Sometimes we really need to take a moment and enjoy the “honey” God has given us. Laugh! Play with your kids. Spend a romantic evening with your wife. Go fishing. Play some golf. Tend your garden. Enjoy! And give thanks to the Provider of all our rich blessings.

However, like a good Tex-Mex dinner, the meal is not about the dessert. Honey is for the here and now. Wisdom is for the here and the hereafter!

More than anything else we need to appreciate and enjoy the sweetness of the Lord’s instruction through His powerful word. King David said these morsels are “*Sweeter than honey and the honeycomb.*” Why? Because “*by them Your servant is warned, and in keeping them there is great reward.*” (Psalm 19:10-11).
--Phil Robertson

A Reason to Run

In Kenya it is not uncommon for children to walk many miles to school. However, most do not lollygag around: They run! Why? Well, a reporter at the Sydney Olympics may have inadvertently stumbled upon the answer as he questioned Kenyan marathoner Kip Lagat. He wanted to know how Kenya kept producing so many great distance runners. Did it have something to do with their training? Lagat replied, “It’s the road signs, ‘Beware of lions!’ ”

Imagine passing a sign that warns of hostile predators on your way to work or school. It would certainly give you a reason to keep your arms and legs inside the vehicle at all times. But, if you are on foot, it means RUN!

My mom used to warn me about strangers. Do you think a Kenyan mother tells her children as she hands them their lunch pail, “Have fun at school today and watch out for the lions.” If she loves them she does.

Frankly, this is sound Biblical advice. Peter warns all of us of a lion that roams every neighborhood in the world. “*Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour*” (2 Peter 5:8). We sometimes forget this great danger and fail to heed the warning signs in God’s Word. In Genesis, Satan took the form of a serpent when he tempted man. Today, he does not look quite that suspicious, yet his bite remains like that of lion ripping apart its prey.

So what do you do when you find yourself in lion country? You run just like Kenyan children until you’re safely home. Along the way, just like great marathoners, we become great spiritual runners who will one day wear an everlasting crown! (1 Cor. 9:25)
--Phil Robertson