

Remember in Prayer:

Lucille Hall, Ethel Wohlrabe's mother, is at home after another hospitalization last week.

Marymack German, Martha Felker's sister, is at Skyline Medical Center for rehabilitation after suffering a stroke.

Continue to remember others recovering from sickness, surgery and those dealing with cancer or chronic illness including:

Dennis Blanton, Xenna Gooch, Katherine Kenning, James Tanksley, Ronald Miller (Larry's father), Carolyn Lowder, Wayne Reeves (Debra Baham's father), Burton Brown (Bettye's brother), Berta Davidson (Debra Baham's grandmother), Verna Jacks (Brandon Graves' grandmother) and Pansy Hensley.

News & Notes:

--**Group 2** will meet today in the Library after the morning service.

--**Calendars and Assignment Sheets** for August are available in the lobby.



Those who do not have e-mail can get copies of **Johnny's reports from Moldova** in the lobby.

--If you can help in **preparing the Lord's Supper**, please sign up on the list on the bulletin board in the lobby.

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
And won't it be wonderful when we land safely on heaven's shore? We will finally see the great Pilot of our lives. The beauty of His home and the family gathered there will be so grand. We will look differently at the days we went "in the Hudson." God will be glorified and everything will be all right. I leave you with the word of Paul – *"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us"* (Rom. 8:18).

--Jeff May, *Biblical Insights*

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"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." Matthew 11:28

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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July 26, 2009

Before The Crisis Comes

"We are going to be in the Hudson." These were the words Captain Chesley Sullenberger spoke with remarkable calmness, moments before landing his crippled US Airways Airbus in New York's Hudson River on January 15, 2009.

The day had begun as an ordinary day. In fact, Captain Sullenberger had just lifted off and spoke to the control tower saying, "Good day." Moments later he spoke saying, "Ah, this is, uh Cactus 1549, hit birds, lost thrusts in both engines. We are turning back towards LaGuardia."

It soon became evident, however, that landing at LaGuardia was not an option and this heroic captain headed toward the only runway he could reach. He landed smoothly in the Hudson River saving the lives of all 150 passengers on board.

How did he remain so calm in such a crisis and perform so well? Sullenberger had spent his whole life preparing for the five-minute crucible that was Flight 1549. He received his pilot's license at age 14, flew fighter jets in the Air Force, investigated air disasters, mastered glider flying and even studied the psychology of how cockpit crews behave in a crisis.

Preparing for the Crisis... This is exactly what Christians have to do. The day will come when spiritually "we are going to be in the Hudson." It may be the death of a loved one, sickness, divorce, an unplanned pregnancy, a miscarriage, addiction to substances or some totally unimagined thing. Crisis.

Brace for Impact. We must anticipate the day of trouble. Before splashdown in the Hudson, Sullenberger told his passengers, "Brace for impact." So must we. There is no way to live without ever experiencing crises of some sort. Jesus tells His disciples, *"In this world you will have tribulation"* (John 16:33). We need to hear Him say, *"See, I have told you beforehand"* (Matt. 24:25). If we truly understand that trials are inevitable, we will not be thrown into a panic when they come.

It is also vital that we understand up front that trials and crises are allowed by God to test us and strengthen our faith. He is not working to make us bitter but to make us better (1 Peter 1:6-7; James 1:2-4; Romans 5:3-4).

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Even Job, who lost his possessions, his children, and health with wave after wave of hardship said *"When He has tested me, I shall come forth as gold"* (23:10).

Mental "dress rehearsals" are also helpful. Sullengerger had already put himself in mock situations before the dreadful day came. He thought ahead about how he wanted to react if it ever came. As a result, he was ready. I think of Daniel, who on his way to Babylonian captivity, *"purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself"* (1:8). He envisioned possible scenarios and was calm and collected when things got hot. As a result, he was ready.

Calm Before The Storm. The calm before the storm is the time to prepare. Someone has said "We must build a strong faith in the good times to sustain us in the bad times." Spiritual stamina comes daily as we learn God on an intimate level. The repeated exercises of Bible study, prayer and devotion builds our spiritual muscle. We read about men and women who have gone before and by God's grace endured every trial. We long to be in such company. We reach back for the same grit and determination. We trust the same God who delivered them and will deliver us. He has a proven track record. We know that while He may or may not take our thorn away, He will provide more than enough grace to hold us up (2 Cor. 12:7-11). The will of God will never lead you where the grace of God cannot keep you. And too, we think back to all the previous trials through which God has led us. Our smaller bumps and bruises prepare us for the bigger ones.

Let us also never forget that God is still on the throne in all our trials. He promises not to allow a trial that is greater than we can bear (1 Cor. 10:13). I quite often say, "A great trial means that God believes you have great faith." It make you smile to know that God has confidence in you and believes you can withstand even this. It makes you want to prove to yourself what God already believes. Believe that He is at the wheel. I have penned in my wide-margin Bible, "When God permits His children to go through the furnace, He keeps his eye on the clock and His hand on the thermostat. His loving heart knows how much and how long."

Friends Needed. Before the crisis comes, we need to nurture a good crop of friends and supporters. It is sometimes said, "Laugh and the world laughs with you. Cry and you cry alone." Well, I haven't found it so in the family of God (Rom. 12:15). Trust me, when trials come you will be thankful for the support of your spiritual family—brothers & sisters who will hug you, listen to you, cry with you and help you in ways you would not believe.

Other Eyes Are Watching. Finally, we need to think ahead about the great impact we can make for God when we endure such moments gracefully. The death of Lazarus in John 11 was a crisis moment. But Jesus saw it as a great opportunity to demonstrate the power of God and bring people to faith. People are always watching. They wonder if faith in God really makes a difference in the storms of life. We will never have a greater opportunity to show faith at work than in those times.

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God's Coffee

A group of alumni, highly established in their careers, got together to visit their old university professor. Conversation soon turned into complaints about stress in work and life.

Offering his guests coffee, the professor went to the kitchen and returned with a large pot of coffee and an assortment of cups - porcelain, plastic, glass, crystal, some plain looking, some expensive, some exquisite - telling them to help themselves to the coffee.

When all the students had a cup of coffee in hand, the professor said: "If you noticed, all the nice looking expensive cups were taken up, leaving behind the plain and cheap ones. While it is normal for you to want only the best for yourselves, that is the source of your problems and stress. Be assured that the cup itself adds no quality to the coffee. In most cases it is just more expensive and in some cases even hides what we drink. What all of you really wanted was coffee, not the cup, but you consciously went for the best cups. And then you began eyeing each other's cups. Now consider this: life is the coffee; the jobs, money and position in society are the cups. They are just tools to hold and contain life, and the type of cup we have does not define, nor change the quality of life we live. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the coffee God has provided us. God brews the coffee, not the cups..... Enjoy your coffee!

--Anonymous

Houses of Worship

1. What gruesome object did the Philistines fasten in the temple of Dagon? 1 Chronicles 10:10
2. Why did John not see a temple in the new Jerusalem? Revelation 21:22
3. Whose temple did Abimelech burn while the people of Shechem were hiding inside? Judges 9:46-49
4. Who received a vision of the Jerusalem temple while he was in exile in Babylon?
5. According to Paul, who is called to be the temple of God? 1 Corinthians 6:19
6. What Assyrian emperor was assassinated by his sons while he was worshiping in his pagan temple? 2 Kings 19:37
7. Who was told in a vision to measure the temple in Jerusalem? Revelation 11:1-2
8. What holy object was taken by the Philistines into the temple of Dagon, causing Dagon's image to fall down? 1 Samuel 5:2-4
9. Who built a temple for Baal in Samaria? 1 Kings 16:32
10. What king issued an order allowing the Jews to rebuild the temple in Jerusalem? Ezra 6:1-12
11. Who was taken to the highest point of the Jerusalem temple? Matthew 4:5
12. What was Jesus talking about when he spoke of destroying the temple and raising it up in three days? John 2:19-21

Answers: 1. Saul's head; 2. God and the Lamb are the temple; 3. The temple of the god Berith; 4. Ezekiel (40-42); 5. All believers; 6. Sennacherib; 7. John; 8. The ark of the covenant; 9. Ahab; 10. Darius; 11. Jesus; 12. His body