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of a little faith (14:30-31) shared by all the apostles (26:8), the “Bible scholars” (the scribes and Pharisees) had no faith at all (15:1-20), and nine of the apostles would soon be labeled “faithless and perverse” (17:17).

Second, Christ knew this Canaanite woman had the real McCoy (John 25). In order to get her faith out for all to see, He adopted an attitude that served as a dramatic foil. And she rose to the occasion. Despite her disadvantages (a Gentile, woman, etc.) and the discouragements, she hurdled every obstacle, undaunted and unshaken in her belief in Christ’s grace and goodness. By her dogged pursuit of blessing, she manifested an endurance and a faith that put Nazareth, the Pharisees, the apostles (and us?) to shame. The sequel to the story is that Jesus became “like himself again” (McGarvey) and granted the woman’s wish, healing her daughter that very hour (15:28).

Every Christian understands that in the good fight of faith we must outlast Satan (James 4:7), but we also need to understand that there are times—and I say this reverently—when we need to outlast God. For reasons known only to Him (see Job 42:3), it may seem He is saying “No” to our requests when He allows us to face a seemingly disproportionate amount of sorrow and grief. During these times we are sorely tempted to throw in the towel, curse God and die. But the righteous response, the “great faith” response is to hold on to God, persisting in our plea (Luke 18:1) until His “No” (25:23-27) becomes a “Yes” (25:38). And it will become a “Yes”, not according to our time-schedule, but God’s. When He says the time is right, the storm will pass and blessings will flow.

In this hope we can live, until the “tune of suffering” becomes the song of glory. So, “let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing for he careth for you.” Kenny Chumbley, *Christianity Magazine*

### The Bereaved:

Our sympathy is extended to the family of **Lucille Hall**, Ethel’s mother, who passed away and was buried last week.

### The Sick:

**Susie Kaiser** continues to suffer with chronic back pain and knee pain. Her daughter, Kim, is also having difficulty with severe back pain.

**Billie Keller** was admitted to Baptist Hospital last week due to problems with her heart.


**Sibyl Claypool**, Mark’s mother, is at home recovering from knee replacement surgery. Her address is 443 Oakley Dr., Nashville, TN 37220.

Continue to remember **Xenna Gooch**, **Katherine See**, **Ronald Miller**, Larry’s father, **Louis Mullen**, **James Tanksley** and **Pansy Hensley**.

### News & Notes:

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

--Everyone is invited to a gathering at the Claypool’s house on October 30 at 6:30 pm.



**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

Perry Heights church of Christ  
423 Donelson Pike  
Nashville, TN 37214  
(615) 883-3118

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

October 18, 2009

## Outlasting God

In Moffatt’s translation, the superscription to Psalm 53 reads: “From the Choirmaster’s collection. To the Tune of Suffering.” Sadly, there are many for whom this tune is the dominant note of their life. But despite the trauma they live radiantly and resolutely, well illustrating how an unbroken spirit can sustain a broken body (Proverbs 18:14).

There is one situation, however, that poses a special threat to the faith that gives the hope that produces endurance (Romans 5:2ff); viz., the thought that God doesn’t care. So long as we are assured that there is a purpose behind our pain, we can take the worst life has to offer. But once the doubt creeps in that God is indifferent to our situation, faith faces a factor that can readily destroy it.

The Un-Christ-like Christ : There is probably no story in the Gospels more troubling than the one in Matthew 15:21-28, because there is no other place where Christ seems so un-Christ-like. While on a tour through southern Phoenicia, Jesus is approached by a Canaanite woman who makes a heartrending plea for her badly demonized daughter. It is a perfectly legitimate request, one the Lord had immediately and compassionately handled many times before (Matthew 4:24, 8, 16, etc.).

But this time Jesus didn’t do the customary, but the unsettling. First, He ignored the woman. To her request for mercy He excluded the woman. The disciples, perhaps impatient over the interruption, urged that she be sent away. Based on Christ’s answer, it seems they were suggesting He get rid of her by granting her request. But Jesus justifies His reticence by saying, “I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel” (15:24).

Far from being dissuaded, her fervor only intensifies (mothers with sick children are not easily discouraged in their attempt to see the doctor). Coming to Christ, she worships Him and begs, “Lord, help me.” But upon hearing this, Christ insults her: “It is not meet to take the children’s bread, and to cast it to dogs” (15:26). Of all the things Jesus ever said this seems the cruelest for “dog” was a byword for contempt (Matthew 7:6; Philippians 3: 2; 2 Samuel 24,14). Yet even in the face of this slur, the lady persists: “Yes, Lord but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters’ table” (NIV).

Going back as far as Chrysostom, various explanations have been concocted to explain Christ’s rudeness. One of the more intriguing interpretations sees the language in verse 26 as twinkle-in-the-eye repartee (see Elton Trueblood, *The Humor of Christ*, 123). I tend to think, however, that there was no twinkle in Christ’s eye and that His words sounded as harsh as they read. But why would Jesus treat this woman as He did? Two considerations clear up the mystery. First, note the context of this story: Christ’s hometown had spurned Him (23:53-58), Peter had sunk like a rock because

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## Preacher's Pen points

## Taming the Storms of Life The Storm of Mistreatment



### The Storm David Experienced

\_\_\_\_\_ by his own son,  
Loyal \_\_\_\_\_ turned away  
\_\_\_\_\_ of an uncertain future

### How David Navigated the Storm (Psalm 4:1-6)

His appeal to \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 1)  
His response to the \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 2-3)  
His exhortation to the \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 4-5)  
His plea for the \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 6)

### How the Storm Was Calmed (Ps. 4:7-8)

God gave David \_\_\_\_\_.  
God gave David \_\_\_\_\_.  
God gave David \_\_\_\_\_.

### We too can navigate the storm of mistreatment!

\_\_\_\_\_ to God for His help.  
Affirm your faith in the \_\_\_\_\_ of God to take care of His godly ones.  
Encourage those around you to keep doing \_\_\_\_\_ even when they are upset and hurting.  
\_\_\_\_\_ those whose hearts fail because of disillusionment and discouragement with the \_\_\_\_\_ that God will make all things work out!  
Receive from God the spiritual \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ that comes through trusting in Him!

**Remember this psalm when others are mistreating you. Like David, you too can successfully navigate through the storm of hostility. Keeping looking to Jesus because He still calms storms!**

## The Good of a Gospel Meeting

(excerpts from Brent Lewis article, *Christianity Magazine*, Vol. 5 No. 8)

What are the factors that will make a gospel meeting successful in our time? Let me suggest just a few:

### 1. Attach importance to the meeting.

A sure way to doom the success of a gospel meeting is to have one just because “it is time” to have one. When members do not plan for and approach a meeting enthusiastically, it is impossible to have a good meeting. In some places, it is difficult even to get the members to attend, much less visitors.

**2. Invite friends and neighbors.** Oftentimes we have decided that no one is interested in the gospel anymore and we give up on them before we begin, failing to extend an invitation. Please understand that we must not approach a concentrated gospel effort with a defeatist attitude. Though God does not hold us responsible for results, He does require effort.

**3. Remember to pray for the success of gospel preaching.** As we pray, we fill our minds with the importance of the task ahead, and express our faith in the power of prayer. As little as we have done in other ways to prepare for meetings in the past, the least may have been our meager praying about it.

Gospel meetings can still do good. It is thrilling to see and hear of the success that many churches are having in our time.

We have the rare opportunity to have Dan Edwards speak to us October 25 - 27. Dan preaches at the Marcella Falls church, and he is a Licensed Professional Counselor and Mental Health Service Provider. He plans to speak on the following topics:

### Christ-Centered Living

**Sun. 10/25, 9am: The Bible and Mental Health.** This lesson will examine case studies of several Bible characters to identify possible mental health issues that affected their lives.

**10/25, 9:55 am: Wonderful Counselor.** This sermon will validate Isaiah 9:6 that Jesus is truly a “Wonderful Counselor” in that He demonstrates traits encouraged for professional counselors.

**10/25, 2:30 pm: Christ-Centered Therapy.** This sermon is taken from Romans 12:2 and will demonstrate how the gospel of Christ can transform the mind.

**10/26, 7 pm: Christ-Centered Marriages.** This sermon will emphasize how wonderful our marriages become when we put Christ at the center and live up to our roles.

**10/27, 7 pm: Christ-Centered Families.** This sermon will emphasize how families can flourish when we put Christ in the center.

Flyers are available in the lobby for your use in inviting others. Let's all renew our confidence in the good of a gospel meeting!