

# Church News



## I didn't hit him hard, Nana!

A few weeks ago Gale came home from work and told me that Raegan had gotten in trouble at daycare for hitting another child. She confronted Rae-gan and gave her a lecture in terms she could understand to remind her that she is not to hit other kids. She quickly came back with her defense as she told Nana, "I didn't hit him hard!" I suppose it was her way of attempting to demonstrate that what she did was alright, or at least not as bad as it appeared. Kids have such a way with words! How do you reprimand a three year old after such a statement?

It is amazing how, even at a very early age in life, there is something in humankind that causes us to try to justify our actions and choices when we do wrong. We live in a society that would have us to believe that whatever bad decision or action we take is the fault of someone else and they are to blame. But in the end we will have to take responsibility for our own actions.

If we will pay attention, we will see daily demonstrations of the imperfections we have as human beings; imperfect decisions, thoughts, and



**Pastor  
James Scarborough**  
Donalsonville  
Assembly of God

actions are constantly bombarding us. With that realization we have to choose to either ignore our sinful ways, blame them on someone else, or look to the perfect God to forgive us and make us into what He wants us to be.

The Bible gives the accounts of individuals that failed Him when their ungodly desires overtook them. One of the well known ones was a powerful king of Israel, David. He lived and walked in close fellowship with

God, yet he was imperfect and sinned against God. If you are familiar with David's story of sin with a woman who was not his wife, you will remember that one sin led to another as he tried unsuccessfully to cover his tracks of wrongdoing (2 Samuel 11-12). All of his feeble attempts to sweep it under the rug failed and the time came when he had to face the displeasure of God; he had to take responsibility - there was no one to blame but himself. Sure, the devil tempted him but it was David himself who made the choice to take the shameful actions that he took.

David's bad choices brought him to a place of another choice when he was confronted by the prophet of God: he

had to either appeal to God for mercy or live with a hard and arrogant heart filled with sin. In humility and contrition, he chose to pour out his heart before God, seeking cleansing and restoration, which God granted him. He was not brokenhearted because he got caught, but because he knew he had sinned against God with Whom he had previously walked closely.

In his prayer of repentance, David did not try to justify his actions or blame them on another. Instead, he confessed to God, "Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You are proved right when You speak and justified when You judge" (Psalm 51:4, New International Version). Upon taking responsibility for his sin, he asked for God's forgiveness: "Hide Your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity" (verse 9). And then he asked God to restore him to that place of closeness with Him: "Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me" (verse 12).

We can use some creative tactics to try to justify or hide our sins, or attempt to make them look acceptable, but ultimately we will have to give an accounting to God. It pays eternally if we will do as King David did - he confessed his sin, he asked for God's forgiveness, and he sought restoration of his walk with God.

Are you trying to hide something that you know is separating you from God? Right now is a perfect time to take care of it!

## Church Briefs

Lake Seminole Baptist Church has resumed services with many precautionary measures set in place. We will sponsor a Blood Drive on March 18 from 3:30 to 7:30 at the church. LSBC welcomes all to come and worship with us! Sunday School starts at 9:45 a.m. and morning worship begins at 11:00 a.m.; our evening worship starts 6:00 p.m. Wednesdays we have prayer and Bible study starting at 7:00 p.m. Celebrate Recovery every Friday at 7:00 p.m.

## Weekly Devotion

from Alex Howell

"Jesus arose, rebuked the wind and said to the sea Peace be still. And the wind ceased and there was great calm." Mark 4:39

How could Jesus be at peace in a life-threatening storm?

Jesus spoke peace to the storm because He was at peace in the storm and remember you can only give away what you have. The storms of life sent our way by our enemy know if we believe what we say.

Jesus demonstrated to us that peace in this world isn't the absence of noise or conflict. Peace in this world is the presence of someone - Jesus. And only Jesus can touch what you are feeling inside and turn that turmoil into His peace.

The reason it's so hard for us to believe God's Word about Peace or many of His promises, is because His word is spirit and life.(John 6:63) We can't see or feel our Spirit emotionally, so physical facts consistently overrule spiritual truths.

But Philippians 4:6-7 tells us to "not be anxious about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication (earnestly and humbly) with thanksgiving" let our request be made known to God. And the PEACE of God that passes all understanding will keep our hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Notice it says to come in thanksgiving. You can't be truly thankful if you doubt God will hear and deliver. We must believe His peace is ours and like Jesus, release it into our storms of life.

## Out on a Limb . . . By BO McLeod

Boy, according to the way things stand up there now, we'd better hope Jim Gillis, Sr. never retires from the highway board!

If the going rate on pensions is anything like what they gave to Phil Campbell the other day, there won't be enough money in the state to handle it when somebody like Mr. Jim quits.

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We're about to get lights installed on the local airport, so maybe we can offer some competition to Cuba in the airplane high jacking business. If we could get just half the loads of folks that are being high jacked now, we could probably sell them a lot of collards, corn pone and buttermilk, greatly helping the local economy.

With our luck though, the planes would wind

up in Havana right on, Havana, Fla. even.

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It's time to start baseball practice in the majors, and we still don't know if there'll be any players around when the season starts.

They're still fussing about their grievances. The owners and players are fussing, I mean.

The way things stand now, even after the season starts it won't be the same. We'll never know if the third-base coach is signaling a steal or a union meeting. Or what the umpire really means when he yells strike.

The coming thing will probably be guaranteed minimum number of home runs, base hits and strike outs for all the players. That's the way it developed outside baseball,

remember.

It's as hard to sympathize with a baseball player who makes hundreds of thousands of dollars a year, as it was to worry about our congressmen and the mess they were in before they got that 41% raise.

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It looks like many students in many institutions of learning think they're smarter than the professors, and if the profs don't have enough backbone and courage to stand up to the mobs, the students are probably right.

This business of bowing down and giving up to mobs, just so folks will kinda believe in the right to dissent is childish and somebody ought to recruit a few of our old instructors

to straighten things out.

Oh, I'm not saying they'd make egg heads out of the dissenters, but they did have a knack for letting you remember who was running the classrooms, for better or worse.

Or, the boss wasn't always right, but he was always the boss.

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Sorry if I gave you the wrong impression about Tex Ritter's record about his trip to Miami via Havana. I didn't mean it was naughty, like vulgar, I meant it was sorta sneaky of anyone to make such a thing.

Hope old buddy Tex doesn't hear anything about this, by the way. He's liable to sic a boll weevil on us.

### DO

- Wear it whenever you are in public settings
- Make sure it covers your nose + mouth
- Wash after each use

**WEAR  
a  
MASK**

### DON'T

- Use for children 2 and under
- Use surgical masks or other PPE intended for health care workers

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Donalsonville News  
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