

Church News



Fragile contents need extra care

I suppose that Gale and I are not the only parents whose adult children leave lots of their belongings behind when they leave home. Those mystery boxes and hanging clothing at our house can be found in the closet and in both of our storage sheds.

One day I decided to move some of it from one shed to the other (which probably meant that I moved it back to the shed I had moved it from previously!). As I relocated the boxes of "treasure" one of them sounded like it contained pots and pans as I sat it down in a not so delicate way. I figured if it had useable pans inside whichever one of our girls who deposited it at our house might just have some use for it, an idea that I thought was a clever way to get rid of at least one box! But when I took a look inside I discovered that the rattling that I heard was not the sound of aluminum and stainless steel cookware. Instead, when I made my visual observation I found that it contained ceramic items. As quickly as I had opened the box, I closed it without any further investigation and stacked it away with the rest of the boxes. I do not know if anything inside was



**Pastor
James Scarborough**
Donalsonville
Assembly of God

broken, but if the past is any indicator, that box will not be opened again for many years and its owner is not likely going to come searching for it.

That box containing the fragile items looked sturdy and able to withstand anything that came against it. In reality it was not indestructible and outside forces could potentially destroy what was stored in it.

Our lives are a lot like that, too. We are able to put on the appearance that we are able to withstand whatever comes our way, while inwardly we have weak and tender spots that can be crushed by the cruel and insensitive comments and actions of others. Covering up the resulting heartaches do not make them disappear; they only accumulate, continue to hurt us, and can even drive us to hurt others because of our own frustrations and pain.

David, a great man of God in the Old Testament, often expressed the pain and sorrow that he was enduring at the hands of others. David was by no means weak physically and emotionally, but neither was he too proud to acknowledge his seasons of sorrow. He also knew that he needed

help from God to overcome the attacks that were coming against him. Included in what he wrote in Psalm 55 is an observation about his painful dilemma that we might be familiar with: "If an enemy were insulting me, I could endure it; if a foe were raising himself against me, I could hide from him. But it is you, a man like myself, my companion, my close friend, with whom I once enjoyed sweet fellowship as we walked with the throng at the house of God" (verses 12-14, New International Version).

One writer, commenting on the topic of the suffering of the righteous followers of Christ, rightly stated that "The Christian faith lies not in the removal of weakness and suffering, but in the manifestation of divine power through human weakness." Simply put, the glory and power of God can often be seen most clearly in our weakest and darkest hours.

There are few things in life that hurt more than betrayal by a friend. No matter how strong we look on the outside, disappointments by those close to us hurt more than words can describe. In those times we can rely upon what we are reminded of in verse 22: "Cast your cares on the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never let the righteous fall." And in the midst of pain and frustration we can choose to be committed to the determination that David expressed toward God as he concluded this psalm: "But as for me, I trust in You" (verse 23).

Our Church

Our little white church ... sits out in the country ... on a little hill all alone ... but just walk inside ... and meet everyone ... and you will feel ... right at home. ... Our congregation numbers ... they may be small ... but our doors are always open ... and we welcome all. ... I attended this church ... when I was a kid ... and the congregation ... was bigger back then. ... We had lots of people ... different families and friends ... but that was ... many years ago ... and our church still stands ... and we love it so ...

I think back years ago ... when I was just that young girl ... when I was taught to dream big ... and set my goals high ... in this ole world ... to trust in Jesus ... with all my fears ... and rely on Him ... to dry my tears ... to have the faith ... of a mustard seed ... to depend on Him ... to meet my needs ...

I recall my classroom ... was up the stairs ... in a small room ... with a table and chairs ... My teacher was ... Mrs. Chastine Burke ... which she was also my neighbor ... she and Mr. Jack ... were always doing me favors. ... In a class one Sunday ... we made two plaques each ... and they were kinda small. ... They were of a girl and boy kneeling ... and we were to place them ... on our wall. ... It was to teach us ... to bow our heads ... and bend our knees to pray ... to give thanks for all we had ... each and every day. ... When I gave my life to Christ ... I was baptized in Spring Creek ... the water was so cold ... it would make your teeth chatter ... so you could hardly speak. ... I'll never forget that day ... as long as I live ... how that snake ... came in the water with us ... and gave us all a thrill. ... We were all in a line ... holding hands with each other ... when the preacher began to pray ... and all of a sudden ... the snake just swam away. ... I remember the words ... "All of you just close your eyes ... and don't be alarmed ... it's just the devil ... in disguise".

I also recall the times we had ... with what they referred to ... as dinner on the ground ... really it was long tables of food ... with everyone gathered round. ... The fellowship that was had ... and all the love ... that was shared ... it was just amazing to see ... how much everyone cared ... grown ups and kids ... playing horseshoes ... and badminton. ... You could hear birds singing ... dogs barking ... we even had this little kitten. ... We would have ... good times with laughter ... it would be a day well spent ... but at the end of it ... we all knew ... just what it all meant ... we were God's children ... showing love for each other ... cause we were His children ... of sisters and brothers. ... We all loved the Lord ... with all of our hearts ... and we knew He loved us ... by the nail scarred marks. ... He died on that cross ... to set us all free ... to cleanse all the sins ... of you and me ...

So this little church ... may now be small ... but the love of the Lord ... is still shared by all. ... So come visit our church ... we welcome all. ... You can just show up ... no need to call ...we will treat you kind ... and show you the love ... sent down to you ... from God up above...

~ written by Judy Chancey

Welcome! See you Sunday -

Worship begins at 9:00 a.m.

Rev. Darrell Newberry.

Corinth Free Will Baptist Church

2543 Ash Crossing Road, Iron City, Georgia

(Also, join Bro. Newberry and the members of Highway FWB Church, Brinson, as they worship Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.)



Out on a Limb . . . By BO McLeod

As a weekly celebration of the Seminole County Centennial Year, enjoy this selection of long time editor Bo McLeod's *Out on a Limb*, reprinted from the June 8, 1967 edition of the *Donalsonville News*

I've always been in favor of giving a new idea a try. That's the only way to get better, and that's to be willing to switch from what's less.

On the other hand: I've given this daylight savings time over a month of "try", and I've decided I don't like it. Let's get into special session, legislature, and repeal the stuff, before it ruins all of us.

Oh, the bottom part of a DST day is all right, but the top part still comes too quickly. It makes bills fall due an hour earlier, too, you know, and I believe that sorta balances out the argument that DST gives an extra hour for hitting that old ball or soaking that old bait.

Certainly, before the stuff comes due next year, our men in Atlanta can do something to put us back to the good old timey time. Anybody who can lamblast long hair and short skirts can surely do something about midnight and sun-

light coming along so close together.

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Lester evidently struck a few nerves the other day, when he called for an end to skirts above the knees and hair below the ears, in the Governor's office, at least. The girls didn't like the anti-miniskirt blast because probably each one felt picked out and picked at, and the boys didn't like it, because they are boys.

The least we can do is give Les credit for setting a goodly example in the hair affair. He certainly doesn't wear his long, down past the ears. He has darn little above the ears, come to think of it, and I'm sure he can help console and advise the young lads on how to go about getting rid of the stuff.

Another target of the Maddox Manifesto was church bingo. Lester doesn't want any more of this, he says, because it breeds stuff like crime and dope addiction and frowns and things.

I haven't had much experience at church bingo, so I can't dispute what it does or does not breed. I just wonder what kind of preachers and deacons it is that Lester has in mind. I don't believe they're that bad.

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In the meantime, George T. says miniskirts are all right for his office. This puts the Governor and Lt. Governor on different - though not necessarily opposing - sides of the hem, or fence.

Geo. T. heard about Lester's decree that there were too many minis around, and he promptly told all his female employees, "Any girl in my office caught wearing her skirts below the knee will be fired immediately", or so the big town paper said he said.

We don't know yet what Miz Geo. T. has to say about this development, but if Geo. T. shows up with a few band aids on his head, he better have a good set of explanations with him.

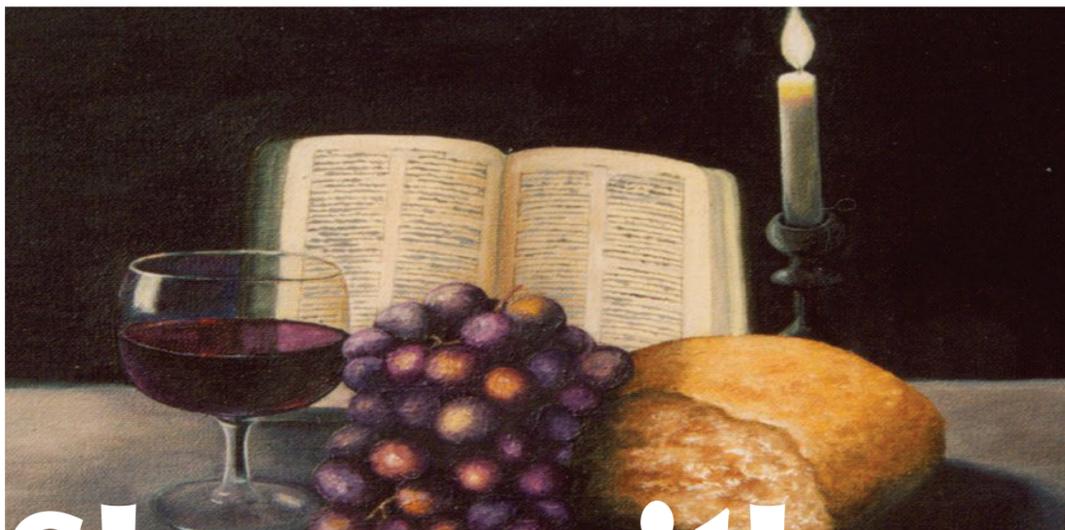
Such issues as this are why we need a watchdog committee, so we can learn the inside facts about what goes on in the state house, while all that tax money comes and goes.

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The city council in Gray, Ga. has entered the anti-gambling campaign, opposing Gov. Maddox, a little bit, anyway. They considered a resolution this week to crack down on bingo and "matching dimes for cold drinks with the corporate limits of Gray". The resolution was introduced, but it died for want of a second, so this sort of means Gray ain't against bingo and matching for drinks.

Our city council ought to get with it, too, and pass a ruling that saying "I'll bet'cha" can be considered a mere figure of speech, and no local citizens will be hauled to the pokey because of it.

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Weekly Devotion

from Alex Howell

"Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; because He is faithful who made the promise." Hebrews 10:23

Ever felt that God's promise to you will never come to pass? You've waited and waited and it seems God hasn't done anything. You have seen others blessed and healed and here you sit with a seemingly unanswered prayer.

If that sounds like you, I want to encourage you. Look at the above scripture. It says "hold fast." Hold fast in this verse means to embrace tightly. It's a picture of someone who finds the object of their dreams and then holds it down - taking control of it. Even sitting on it so it doesn't slip away.

Why are we instructed to hold fast? It's because something or someone is trying to take it away from us. Even Abraham and Sarah had to hold fast to God's promise of a son, when everything made it seem impossible. Except that God had promised them - it took a while to receive their dream of a son but they refused to let go of their dream. And in time it came to pass.

The reason it's so hard for us to believe God's word is because it is "spirit and life." (John 6:63) We have been taught to don't believe it unless we can see it but God's world only operates on faith, not sight. So in return we allow physical facts, that we can feel, see and touch, to consistently overrule spiritual truths.

Hold fast and refuse to let go of God's promise. Put all your weight on top of His promise so that it won't slip away because He is faithful to do what He promised.

"Don't grow lazy but be followers of those who through faith and endurance inherited the promises." (Hebrews 6:12)