



August 30, 2020

Weekly Newsletter

A Minister's Musings – *Shane Hall*

Influence can be a powerful but fragile thing. In reality, my words are only as good to others as the life I choose to lead in their presence. This is a concept that is most easily explained by the relationships we share with our children. That is, with a child it is truly a “monkey see, monkey do” experience. We must take special care of what we do, say and how we act. As a parent, I have a few horrifying stories where in my children said something publicly that they heard me say in private. I’m sure you have these types of stories as well.

I am always astonished at the influence that the apostles had as they traveled from place to place teaching and preaching the word of God. Carrying such an important message demanded that they keep a close watch on themselves in order to stay unspotted from the world (1 Tim. 4:16 ESV; James 1:27).

In Acts 3 we read an interesting imperative given by Peter and John to a lame man who “...lay daily at the gate of the temple that is called The Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple” (Acts 3:2). No doubt that by this time, the city had been stirred by the gospel and by the many conversions it caused. People had heard, believed, and obeyed the words that the apostles preached on the day of Pentecost. Therefore, these men were under a very powerful microscope.

Did they stay hidden so as not to be seen by anyone? Did they go incognito so that folks would not disrupt their precious lifestyles? They did not! While many eyes were watching, the lame man at the gate asked Peter and John for some alms. Immediately, both of them direct their gaze at the man.

What would you have done? Would you have ignored the man? Would you be wishing, deep down, that he would stop talking to you? It is at this point that Peter turns to the man and says, “look at us”. The rest of the account beams with awesome power as the man is healed from his infirmity and proceeds to jump around and praise God.

As Christians, there is no doubt that our influence can be a fragile thing. But I feel like that may keep us from speaking powerfully in the name of Jesus. Peter and John were not perfect but still had the confidence to say “look at me” in public. The secret behind being able to do such a thing is making sure people see Jesus in you! The confidence of the apostles came from the power of God and His word. In other words, the way they lived made a difference in how people saw them but not as much as who they lived for! People will see us make mistakes. Our children will see us make mistakes. But if Jesus is living in us, that light and His love will cover a multitude of sins.



Prayer Requests

Hannah Guntert's uncle (Ronnie) – passed away last week. His wife and family hadn't been allowed to see him since March, **Devastation of Hurricanes, Roger DeLoach's** sister in law (Colleen DeLoach) – has a paraoesophageal hernia and is in need of an expensive surgery, **Jeannie Ewens** – is having outpatient hernia repair on September 2, **Jeff and Brenda Petersen's** son's father in law – passed away. This family lives in Spain, **Laura and Moses Sumpter** (former members) – recovering from COVID 19 (**UPDATE:** They have gone back to work), **Stormy Cook's** mother – had 2 mild heart attacks, **Mary Ellen Myers's** friend (Wyatt Becker) – was in a car accident and has brain bleeding among other things, **Roman Martin** – had shoulder surgery, **Lillie Ramage** – has stage 4 pancreatic cancer, **Mary Ellen Myers's** friend (Sandra Innacarro) – has bladder cancer, **Paul Walker's** friend (Barbara Landis) – was diagnosed with ALS, **Gerri Hasty** – has melanoma in her finger and has surgery on September 3, **Mary Ellen Myers's** son-in-law (David Ellifrites) – is having heart issues and his son (Jason) is scheduled for back surgery, **Cathy Eldridge** – has some internal bleeding, **Mary Ellen Myers's** friend (Arthur Smith) – has bone marrow cancer, **Linda Hyde's** mother (Willa Dean Haley) – is currently in hospice care, **Donna Wealand** – had foot surgery and is finally weight bearing, **Marina Belekonnii** – from Ukraine has Hodgkin's lymphoma, **Jeannie Ewens's** daughter (Emily) – health problems that have affected her ability to work, **Mary Ellen Myers's** sister (Carmen Stevens) - has been given only 3-6 months to live. (**UPDATE:** she is doing very well!!), **Flora Swartz's** friend (Joanie Green) -**UPDATE:** the chemo pills are not having the desired effect. She started the second round, but if there aren't any changes, they will start drip chemo. David Church – **Ben Church's** brother, **Andy Hester, Ralph and Eloise Staley, Joel Morehead, Bruce Keeton, Jurhee Bench, Will Kreisel, Dave Nash, Lena Bramlett**



Birthdays: August 30th – September 5th

Tom Thielbar – 30th

Jeannie Ewens – 31st

Brenda Petersen – 31st

Kelly Seuferling – 31st

Reagan Barr – 2nd

Hudson Herrington – 3rd

Sandy Sewell – 3rd



Hudson Herrington is turning 11!!!

Back view of two parents standing on the road with their children looking at a cross - ximagination © 123rf.com

The word PRAYER written in vintage wooden letterpress type in a wooden type drawer -[enterline](http://enterline.com) © 123rf.com

children read a bible on the bed – [Volodimir Kalina](http://Volodimir_Kalina.com) © 123rf.com
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