



December 13, 2020

Weekly Newsletter

The Preacher's Post – *Darin Kennedy*

*“What makes the sphinx the seventh wonder? Courage!
What makes the dawn come up like thunder? Courage!
What makes the Hottentot so hot?
What puts the ‘ape’ in apricot?
What have they got that I ain’t got? Courage!”*

—*The Cowardly Lion, The Wizard of Oz*

We disciples lack courage. We know what to do. We are well-educated in the commandments and God’s mission. We may claim that we are seeking more truth, and so we study harder and put on a show of preparation (more for ourselves than for others). However, the reality is that time spent *preparing* often masks the lack of courage we have for *doing*. There comes a time to put down the book and to do the work.

It takes courage to face inward change. Any change, whether positive or negative, produces uncomfortable stress. Change first empties out bad habits, thoughts, and feelings. The moment of complete emptiness is as dark as midnight to the soul, and the person is tempted to fill the void quickly with something, often using the negative things one was trying to eliminate. Courage is needed to push through the fear and fill the void with good things through discipline and practice.

It takes courage to change relationships. Our relationships may suffer from immorality or manipulation or abuse or deception or superficiality. We know they ought to change, but change may sever the relationship completely, and we most fear being alone. Courage faces the fear of loss and empowers us to patiently make those changes together.

It takes courage to live out a public, faithful life. Faith needs to be lived out in the presence of other people. In the store, at work, at school, we are called to display righteousness. The culture around us does not have the same standards. We must confront the fear of being different than others. Courage is needed to put aside worries of our reputation and to seek God’s approval more than the approval of people. Indeed, the Christian is always under the threat of persecution for living and speaking faithfully, but courage looks past the dangers to shine in the darkness and to glorify God.

Courage comes through practice, so today we commit to trying something new. Whether confronting darkness, fear, or enemies, God will give us victory when we put our trust in Him.



Prayer Requests

Shirley Petersen's daughter and son-in-law (Lee and Cherlyn Trotter) – are recovering from COVID, **Edmond Barr's** friend (Ana Ortiz) – is suffering from some severe health issues, **Bill Haley's** mom – is at the Mayo Clinic in Arizona trying to find answers to severe chronic pain, **Liddy Miller's** friend's father (Gary Schouten) - is in ICU with COVID. He was intubated, put on full oxygen and is alone in the hospital, **Samantha Pollard's** cousin (Fabian) - has been admitted to the hospital with pneumonia and blood clots in his lungs, **Jurhee Bench** - passed from this life on Thursday. She had been in the hospital since December 2nd with congestive heart failure issues. She was sent home with hospice on Wednesday and passed on Thursday, **Buddy Self's** brother-in-law – passed away this week due to COVID complications, **Wainscott family** – is on the mend from COVID, **Mark and Flora Swartz's** son in law (Jeremy Braden) – had surgery for a herniated disc, **Carol Hendrix** – has terminal cancer (she is not taking any treatments). She is not in any pain. Her daughter is staying with her, **Marcella Hedges'** son in law (Bud Mosely) – is in the hospital with blood clots, **Sydney Kerley's** friend (Aaron Derringer) – passed away after a battle with COVID. Aaron leaves behind a wife and 5 young children, **Mark and Flora Swartz's** son (Mark D) – is home from the hospital. They put in a new shunt. The infection seems to be clearing up well, **Mary Ellen Myers's** friend (Patricia Lands) – was recently diagnosed with COPD. She is the primary caregiver for her elderly mother and has a lot of responsibility to shoulder through this diagnosis, **Cathy Eldridge** – is slowing recovering from some ongoing health issues, **Susan Foster** – was hospitalized Saturday thru Wednesday with nausea, stomach, and chest pains. After several tests it was determined to be gastritis that can be controlled with meds, **Pat Kreisel** – is experiencing some back pain and is limited in her mobility, **Joe Harber's** wife (Charlotte) – is suffering from some ongoing health issues, **Hannah Guntert's** grandmother (Wanda Thomason) – has been diagnosed with breast cancer. **UPDATE:** She is NOT in the hospital anymore and but is recovering COVID, **Mitch and Peggy Rush's** granddaughter (a family from East Independence church) – is suffering from a severe head

injury. She is 6 years old. She was in a car accident. **UPDATE:** She can eat and drink on her own now and is expected to leave rehab facility on Dec 15th, **Stormy Cook's** brother (Ralph) – has been put on a liver transplant list, **Buddy and Sharon Self's** daughter (Lisa Self) – has a blood clot and fluid in her lungs. She is slowing regaining her strength, **Shirley Simmons** – is recovering from open heart surgery. She is having trouble breathing. Her lungs are partially collapsed. She is awaiting a doctor's appointment on December 29th, **Kelly Seufferling** – is recovering from breast cancer related surgery. She will start chemo on December 29th, **Flora Swartz's** friend (Joanie Green) –She finished chemo! She will go back for scans and checkup in January, **Andy Hester, Joel Morehead, Bruce Keeton, Will Kreisel, Lena Bramlett, Dave Nash**

Birthdays: December 13th – 19th

Bethany Jones – 15th

Stephanie Wahlen – 15th

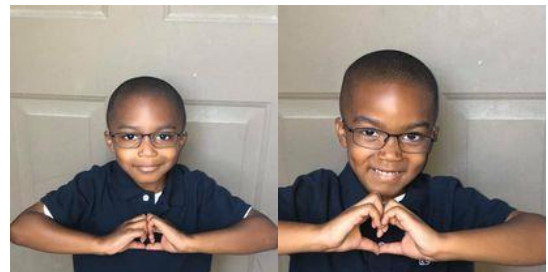
Allie Keller – 17th

Sue Bettis – 18th

Aaron Wainscott – 19th

Caleb Turner – 19th

Canaan Turner – 19th



Caleb Turner is turning 7!!!
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