



December 27, 2020

Weekly Newsletter

A Minister's Musings – *Shane Hall*

Do you remember any of the Christmas gifts you received as a child? While I've forgotten many of mine, I do have some special ones I hope I never forget. One year I remember getting Worlds of Fun passes. That would have been cool for most kids but I was deathly afraid of roller coasters at the time so Santa went on my naughty list. That summer turned out to be awesome though. I learned to appreciate the thrill and made some great memories with my family. On another Christmas, I received an Ibanez acoustic guitar. I'm not sure that it is my favorite all-time gift, but I would say it definitely means more to me now than any other gift I ever received. I've been playing for over 25 years and have gotten so much joy from sharing the music.

When I first got the guitar, I loved the way it looked. I really liked the way it sounded when other people played it. However, in the beginning I didn't even know how to tune it. With great anticipation, I contacted my cousin who was/is an excellent guitarist. I asked him to teach me to play and I'll always remember his great response. In fact, it's how I use the same philosophy when teaching others today. He said, "I'm going to teach you how to teach yourself." At the time I didn't know how valuable this approach would become. Instead of relying on him to show me every little thing to make progress, I was equipped with the tools I needed to improve at my own pace. I believe this has made all the difference.

I believe discipleship should operate the same way. Over the years, church participation has gradually

waned. Instead of being equipped to work in the kingdom with joy and fervor, members are having that work done for them. Too often, God's people are content to show up to a "ready to go" service that the "paid guys" have put together. Long story short, folks are relying on the best players to solidify and grow their faith. Instead of teaching men and women to make progress in their own spirituality we sometimes create a scenario where the hand must always be held.

My mind goes to what Paul told Timothy, "...and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also," and "Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:2,15). I am thankful to have had Christians in my life that gave me the tools to work through my own discipleship. I wasn't just taught to go to bible study, but I was taught HOW to study the bible. And because of that, I have had the privilege of teaching others. I was taught how to be a blessing rather than a person who was waiting to be blessed.

We can give no greater gift than that of God's love. Let's resolve not just to give it but to teach others how to pass it on. HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Prayer Requests

Flora Swartz's sister and brother-in-law (Judy and Lew Statesman) – have COVID but are recovering at home, **Stormy Cook** – is having knee troubles, **Buddy Self's** sister (Ruth) – lost her husband after a COVID diagnosis, **John Owen's** mother (Betty Owen) - was hospitalized after a stroke, **Carol Hendrix** – passed away peacefully last week, **One of Our Members** (wishes to remain anonymous) - has been hospitalized with a very serious case of COVID. Their spouse is not able to be with them, **Vint and Roxanne Hall's** neighbor and friend (Bill Marsh) – passed away in the hospital with COVID. His family was unable to be with him, **Vint Hall's** brother-in-law (Tom Skaggs) – passed away due to COVID complications, **Frank Stewart's** son (Bill Stewart) – had a heart attack **UPDATE:** he is home from the hospital, **Frank Stewart's** son (John Stewart) – had a double knee replacement. He was doing well but ended up with an infection in one of his knees, **Roman Martin** – has staph infection, **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, **Samantha Pollard's** cousin (Fabian) – is in the hospital with pneumonia, blood clots and COVID. His mother-in-law passed away last week, **Mark and Flora Swartz's** son in law (Jeremy Braden) – had surgery for a herniated disc, **Mark and Flora Swartz's** son (Mark D) – is doing very well, **Cathy Eldridge** – is slowing recovering from some ongoing health issues, **Susan Foster** – is recovering well after her knee replacement and recent hospitalization, **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, **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., **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 Seuferling** – is recovering from breast cancer related surgery. She will start chemo on December 29th, **Flora Swartz's** friend (Joanie Green) – will chemo again in February, **Andy Hester, Joel Morehead, Bruce Keeton, Will Kreisel, Lena Bramlett, Dave Nash**

Birthdays: December 27th January 2nd

Ann Boles – 27th

Matthew Cook – 27th

Isabelle Haberstroh-Wainscott – 27th

Nathan Palmer 27th

Debbie Eldridge 28th

Karen Thielbar – 28th

Everly Guntert – 29th

Hunter Hoagland – 30th

Alan Olas – Jan 1st



Matthew Cook is turning 13!!!

Isabelle Haberstroh-Wainscott is turning 13!!!

Nathan Palmer is turning 16!!!



Everly Guntert is turning 2!!!

Hunter Hoagland is turning 21!!!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year - Dodokhova Zalina @ 123rf.com
children read a bible on the bed – Volodimir Kalina © 123rf.com
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