

Lake Jackson Church of
CHRIST

“The Need to Prioritize”

Tom Wenzel

Recently I ran across an article that hit home for me. It reminded me how easy it is to get sidetracked by something so simple; the little things that grab our attention and take us away from our objective. I know that not all of you will recognize some of the phrases used in this story, but because I was raised on a farm I can relate to those trips to the barn!

The story is told of a farmer who one morning decided to plow the south 40 acres. His tractor needed oil so he started for the barn to get it but on the way to the barn he noticed the pigs hadn't been fed. As he headed to the corncrib to get some feed for the pigs he spotted a pile of sacks near the crib reminding him that the potatoes were sprouting. On the way to the potato pit he passed the wood pile and remembered that the kitchen stove was burning low. While picking up wood he saw that one of his chickens was ailing so he dropped the wood to doctor the chicken.

And so it went all day long...detour after detour, until the sun finally slipped over the horizon—and he STILL hadn't oiled the tractor or plowed the south 40.

Is your life like this trip to the barn? Do you have a lot of things that you'd like to get done but don't ever seem to get any of them finished? Do you find yourself being distracted by the “other things” so that you aren't able to accomplish the things—especially the important things—that need to be done?

The KEY to accomplishing the most important things in life is setting the proper priorities. The farmer in the story didn't have ANY priorities. He just flowed

with the tide of events around him causing him to live life in the “reactionary mode.” And it's easy for us to do, isn't it? Our lives contain plenty of “pigs to feed,” “wood to cut,” and “chickens to doctor.” But we must keep all of these things in the proper perspective.

We need to put **FIRST** things **FIRST!**

Jesus identified the most important “**FIRST**” in our lives: “But seek **FIRST** the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and ALL these things shall be added to you”. (Matthew 6:33) In the context of Jesus' statement, we see that “these things” refer to the necessities of life, like food and clothing. (Matthew 6:25-32) “These things” are important! **But, we need to put the MOST important thing FIRST:** seeking God's kingdom and HIS righteousness.

“Seeking **FIRST** the kingdom of God and His righteousness” means that our **FIRST PRIORITY** is to submit our lives to the King. Then, as subjects in His kingdom, we must **CONTINUE** to put Him **FIRST** by continuing to trust and obey him. (Matthew 7-21)

When we put **FIRST** things **FIRST**, we avoid being “**sidetracked**” and we can then become **PRO-ACTIVE** rather than **RE-ACTIVE** to life's circumstances.

On YOUR way to the barn today, remember to prioritize. Seek FIRST the kingdom of God and HIS righteousness.

May God bless you!

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Youth

News

Youth Life Group, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Sundays, at the Student Center.

Girl's Bible Study, 6:00 p.m., Mondays, at the Student Center.

*Senior
Appreciation Service
and Reception*

Sunday, May 18th, 6:00 p.m.

Sonshine Christian Youth Camp

June 15-21, \$180

The Disciple Experiment

For more info, www.SonshineCamp.com or see Hoss.

Uplift

June 21-26 - Harding University

For more info, www.uplift2008.org or see Hoss.

Camp Fundraiser

We will have a Chicken Spaghetti Luncheon on Sunday, June 1st to help with Camp cost. See Dana Young or Hoss for more details.

Planning Ahead

Brazoswood Graduation - May 31

Astros Game - June 6, \$13

Cosmic Bowling - June 8, \$9 - sign-up

Mission Trip - July 6-12, \$150

Check out the new youth website at: www.ljyouth.org and continue to check your email & the youth bulletin board for what is happening. Come be a part of these activities & bring your friends.

Special Youth Request

The youth group would like to have **Old Board Games** to decorate the Student Center. We also have a wish list: "G" and "PG" rated movies, small patio table with chairs, Electric Stove and a water heater.

Recycling Fundraiser

The youth are collecting old printer ink cartridges and old cell phones for recycling to raise money. Please place them in the box in the foyer if you can help.

Hossage

"Desire of Your Heart"

Hoss Ridgeway

Psalm 37:4 (NIV) Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.

The ground is dusty in the desert, more so than you thought it would be. You are thirsty and looking for help, water, a ride or something. As the sun is at its peek you notice something glimmering in the sand. At first you think it is a mirage but you are alone so you investigate anyway. As you pull the shiny object from the sand of the Sahara you notice that it is an old lamp. You try to read it because there is an inscription on it so you rub the lamp to see what it says and a genie emerges and grants you three wishes...Okay this will not happen, but if it did and he asked you what your heart's desire was, what would it be? Would you wish for fortune? World peace? Super powers?

I believe it was in kindergarten; I was sitting in church on a Sunday morning and the little old lady who sat behind me began the PK (preacher's kid) survey. "What is your favorite verse" and, as a good PK, I answered John 11:35 "Jesus Wept" mainly because I could quote it. "What is your favorite song?", the same blue haired saint asked. I answered, "728b" because I got to sing the guys part. Then the final question "What do you want to be when you grow up?" "A preacher", was my swift reply. I don't know, even to this day, if it was because my father was one or if God intended for me to do this all along, but over all I am glad I followed that dream all my life.

I still sometimes wish I could have been a doctor, but I'm not sure that I would like all the pressure. Then I thought I could be a teacher in a high school but I would probably make efforts to become the cool teacher instead of an accomplished one.

So God set out the path and he laid out the foundation because of one thing; my parents taught me to delight in the Lord. Because I love the Lord he has given me

a desire to serve Him in a ministry. I often think I don't deserve it. Couldn't this be for a more organized guy? Doesn't the bookworm need this job? Still the Lord leads. I pray "is this position for the spiritually strong? Not the feeble minded?", but still his love leads me. I think to myself, "am I too old to be a youth minister?", and still God uses me in ways I could not have imagined.

The scriptures teach us that if we seek first the Lord and "delight in him he will give us the desires of our heart". To many on the television this has meant something different. The common new doctrine of televangelists has been labeled "The prosperity Gospel". Maybe you have been flipping the stations looking for something to watch and you came across a sermon about giving a 'seed money' donation to a ministry with promise of promotion or debt relief. Maybe they will have some testimony of a family, who the next day after giving the last of their cash, receives a check in the mail that changes their life. This is not the way the verse we are looking at plays out in our life.

If you delight in the Lord he will give the desires of your heart. It is not a verse promising, "all of your dreams will come true". It is a verse talking about spiritual things. Here the promise is that God will give you new desires. The flesh pulls you with fleshly desires but the spirit can pull you with selfless ones. He will give you a new desire, one that leads you heavenward. He gave me the desire to serve, to lead and to teach others full time. Ask yourself what God is giving you in your heart and follow it. If your desire leads you away from God that desire is from the flesh.

The formula for a changed direction is; knowing what direction God is. If you are looking for the world and its treasure you may not find God. You may just find his creation. Just remember that if God created riches how much greater would life with him be?



News & Events

Sunshine School News

BRIDAL SHOWERS

Everyone is invited to attend a

Bridal Shower

honoring

Krystina Hickl

bride-elect of Jon Bruner

Sunday, May 18th

1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

314 Live Oak Lane, Lake Jackson

(home of Judy Karl)

Selections at: Dillard's, Target and

Bed, Bath and Beyond

Everyone is invited to attend a

Bridal Shower

honoring

Amy Aubrey

bride-elect of Harrison Colt Moncrief

Sunday, June 1st

2:00 to 3:30 p.m.

204 Caladium, Lake Jackson

(home of Joann Taylor)

Selections at Target

WEDDING INVITATION

Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Aubrey

and Mr. John Moncrief

and Ms. Regina L. Moncrief

request the honor of your presence

at the marriage of their children

Amy Michelle Aubrey

and

Harrison Colt Moncrief

on Saturday, the 21st of June

Two thousand and eight

at 4:00 in the afternoon

Lake Jackson Church of Christ

Dinner Reception following at

Lake Jackson Civic Center

NEWBABY

Congratulations to Stacey & Tyler Arnold of Lancaster, TX on the birth, April 1st, of **Aubrie Dakota**, 7 lbs, 7 oz. The proud great-grandparents are Frank and Barbara Greenway and great-aunt is Carol Patterson.

COLLEGE GRADUATES

Alan Lee

Bachelor of Business Art degrees in

Missions and Preaching

Harding University

May 10, 2008

Alan is the son of Robin and Donna Marie Lee

Ann Nisbett

Associate Degree in

Nursing

Galveston College

May 13, 2008

Ann is the wife of Craig and the mother of

Jacob, Daniel, Matt, Jerry and Micah

COLLEGE GRADS

Please notify the church office if you graduated this semester. We would like to acknowledge your accomplishment.

OUR LOVE AND SYMPATHY TO:

Clay and Perri Harper (former members) and family on the death of Clay's father, Tommy Harper, on April 16th.

BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG

Baby bottles were given out Sunday, May 11th to collect spare change in for 5 weeks. Bottles are due back on Sunday, June 15th. Proceeds will go to the Pregnancy Help Center. See Jamie Gay or Joyce Chapa.

FAREWELL FELLOWSHIP

Everyone is invited to a Farewell Dinner on Saturday, May 17th, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Center for Lee and Rachelle Hudson and family. Contact Jamey Hunter for questions.

KIDS GO CAMPING

A new Wednesday night class for ages 4 yr. olds through 3rd grade. Classes begin on June 4th in D-wing and will continue through August. See Jamey Hunter for information.

Pantry Items are listed on the Calender

We had our 4's graduate on May 4th with a wonderful slide show and reception following. This has really been a wonderful year and I can't believe it is over. Our last day of Sunshine School for this school year will be on Friday, May 16th. We have a "Family Fun Day" scheduled with a moonwalk, a big Whale slide, and a slip and slide. We will have hot dogs and all the fixings.

We are still registering for the 2008-2009 school year which we anticipate being a wonderful year at Sunshine School!

Have a great summer. God bless you and thank you for your continued support.

Love Tonya

The **Isaac Abel Hudson Scholarship Fund** was established to help pay the tuition for students attending Sunshine School. Donations may be made to Sunshine School or Lake Jackson Church of Christ and designed to this fund at any time.

ADDITIONAL EVENTS/DATES

Elders Meeting - 6/2, 6/16

Last Life Group Mtg. - 5/25

Office Holiday - 5/26

Sunday pm Summer Series begins - 6/1

Elders/Deacons Meeting - 6/16

VBS - Aug. 10-13

Theme: Friendship Trek

A camping theme emphasizing stories of Jesus as our "Forever Friend"

PRIMETIMERS - May 19 & June 16, 12:30 p.m., at the building.



Elder Chairman:

May - Tom Wenzel

June - Charles Garrett

Information for the next bulletin must be turned in to the office by June 9th.

ATTENDANCE	APR. 13	APR. 20	APR. 27	MAY 4
<i>Bible Class</i>	132	149	168	149
<i>AM Worship</i>	225	246	242	246
<i>PM Worship</i>	115	122	47	215
CONTRIBUTION	\$7114.35	\$9622.22	\$5181.13	\$6536.75

Lake Jackson Church of Christ

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Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes 9:30 AM / Worship 10:30 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM / LIFE Groups (Sept.—May) 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Elders

Charles Garrett—Frank Hickl
Ron McDaniel
Rodger Thompson—Tom Wenzel

Deacons

Chad Abney—Jim Brown—Dennis Brunett
Marc Davis—Joe Hairston—Gary Hicks
Lee Hudson—Kevin Hunter
Larry Kemmerling—Robin Lee—Randy Moore
Craig Nisbett—Joe Phillips—Charlie Story
Mike Wunderlich—Billy Yates

Youth Minister

Hoss Ridgeway

“BE JOYFUL IN HOPE, PATIENT IN AFFLICTION, FAITHFUL IN PRAYER.” - ROM. 12:12

REQUESTING PRAYERS

Lura Mathews is home with back problems and a blood clot in her leg.

Loraine Davis will have another neck fussion scheduled.

Maxine Morrison is recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Sandra Mullins will have hip replacement surgery on May 26th.

Shannon McDougal, Gayla's son, is recovering from surgery for a broken ankle.

Shirl White, Ron's father, has been hospitalized due to a stroke.

Mary Lawhorne, Aaron Lloyd's sister, request prayers due to cancer and back problems.

Laura Arrington, Joe Hairston's aunt, is home after triple bypass heart surgery.

Jared Slater, friend of Dana Young, has serious injuries due to a motorcycle accident.

Continue to remember in prayer

John & Edna Allan, Pam Arthur, Lillian Bisognani, Caiden Cranfill, Kathy Davis, Dorothy Dean, Ben Goddard, Jim Karl, Debra Lee, Lowell Montgomery, Corey & Glen Pool, Jim & Flo Rabon, Robert Rathbun, Roy Schmidt, Joe Seyer, Sean Speed, David Taylor, Tressie Taylor, Elizabeth & Sanford Thompson, Glenn Travis, C.K. Wicke, Joyce Wright.

Remember our Military in prayer

Joey Cherry, Chris Davidson, James Elkins, Brock Farias, John Glover, Corey James, Bruce Kramer, Todd Liles, David Rader, Richard Raines, Justin Randolph, Steven Tavery.

RESPONSES

Placed Membership

Brian and Nicoma Bailey of Lake Jackson placed membership with us on April 20th. They have three children: Mikayla, Noah and Jaden.

Cindy Watts of Angleton placed membership with us on April 27th. She has two children: Kristen and Collin.

PRAY FOR OUR MISSIONS

Andrew Banjarnahor	Indonesia
Shelly Bryant	Singapore
Steve Cate	Indonesia
Dan Mayfield	Owatonna, MN
Lewis Romain	Dominica
Ken Sinclair (voluntary support)	Malaysia
Frances Wechesa	Tanzania