EXPRESSIONS OF LOVE						
Date:	AM	Bible Study	PM	Cont.	Wed	DBR
Nov 27	144	117	89	\$4855*	88	31
Dec 4	143	118	77	\$3946	90	38
Goals	200	160	135	\$4695	130	100%

\* Denotes goals reached. Mid-week stats are for Nov. 23 and 30, 2016

#### **SATAN HAS A BIG FAT NOSE!**

Job 1:6 (cf 2:1), "and Satan also came among them."

The Hebrew phrase indicates that Satan was present but uninvited! There are many areas where Satan is present but has not been invited. He sticks his nose where it's not wanted or needed!

- 1. FAMILY: Satan is not invited in my marriage, home, family or children.
- 2. FAITH: Satan is not invited into my mind, heart or soul!
- 3. FELLOWSHIP: Satan is not invited into my congregation, worship, Bible class, devotional life, prayer meeting, gospel meeting, VBS, Summer Series, Lectureship, etc!
- 4. FOUNDATION: Satan is not invited into my understanding, knowledge, study time, meditation, evangelism, edification or benevolence!
- 5. FUTURE: Satan is not invited into my walk, behavior, conduct, direction or destination!

-Mark Posey, Pulpit Preview, August 30, 2016, Vol. 8, No. 8-

## ASK A FRIEND TO ATTEND

Volume 24 **December 7, 2016**  Number 25

CHURCH OF CHRIST 711 N. Main Street P.O. Box 88 Carthage, TN 37030 RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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# SMITH COUNTY LIGHT



"Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)



MEETING PLACE OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Elders: Don Carter (615-9777) Jack Grisham (615-735-1961) Jerry Phillips (615-735-0326) Derrick Triplett (615-735-0092) R.W. Vincent (615-735-0361)

Scotty Yeaman (615-735-2024) Evangelist:

Edward L. Anderson (615-735-2462)

Youth Minister: Justin Mauldin (931-319-6548)

Secretary: Elaine Wright (615-735-0114) 711 N. Main Street P.O. Box 88 Carthage, TN. 37030 (615) 735-0114

Email: carthagecoc@dtccom.net

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES: Sunday Worship 9:00 A.M. 6:00 P.M. 12:30 P.M. (5th Sunday) **Bible Study Sunday Morning** 10:15 A.M. Wednesday Evening 7:00 P.M.

For Transportation to Services 615-735-0114 or 615-418-6637

Deacons: Josh Brown (931-319-9994) **Barry Cook** (615-735-3194) Michael Hackett (615-897-2313) Steve Harper (615-735-2651) Jeremy Hassler (931-335-1884) **Chris Hicks** (615-418-6472) Jerry Hicks (615-418-6637)Johnny Law (615-735-1240) Joe Reeves (615-735-1131) **Dusty Whitaker** (615-281-8140) Jeff Whited (615-449-3204)

Fax Number: (615) 735-0131 Website: www.carthagechurchofchrist.net Sunday Services broadcast on YouTube

FREE Bible Correspondence Courses, Tracts or Home Bible Study/ Videos. (615-735-0114 or 615-735-2462)

"VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME"

### THE CHAIN OF SALVATION

Every link in a chain is important. If one link is broken or missing, the chain is without value.

The principle is clearly followed in the Bible. It takes several things to save us. Some people say that "Christ saves us," and that is all there is to it! But, friends, salvation is attributed to many factors, according to the Scriptures. For instance, we read in Romans 8:24 that we are "saved by hope." In Ephesians 2:8 we read, "for by grace are ye saved through faith...." In Romans 5:10 Paul informs us that salvation comes **by the life of Christ**. In Ephesians 1:7 we find that redemption is through the blood of Christ. John 3:16 tells us **that believing** is another link in the chain of salvation. In 2 Corinthians 7:10 we read that "Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation..." Paul further states that **confession** of Jesus as the Christ is part of the redemptive process (Romans 10:9-10).

Nearly every religious group agrees up to this point. How could we believe otherwise, when the Bible is so clear? But, now we come to the other necessary parts of the chain of salvation. In 1 Peter 3:21 we read, "The like figure whereunto baptism doth also now save us, not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ." Jesus added, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16).

The other link in this chain of salvation is found in Matthew 10:22. Here our Lord stated, "...But he that shall endure to the end, the same shall be saved." Yes, the child of God must have endurance, or he will be lost.

Remember that salvation is a divine drama. There are two actors on the stage. God has a part to play; man has the other part. Have we fulfilled our role? Not unless we have been obedient to His commands. Let us see that no link in the chain of salvation is missing.

# Have you broken the chain?

-Johnny Ramsey, Voice of Truth International, Volume One-

## FROM THE PREACHER'S HEART:

WELCOME, VISITORS! We are so honored by your presence. It is our desire to worship the one true God in spirit and truth (John 4:24). Let us investigate the Holy Scriptures and reason together (Acts 17:11; Isaiah 1:18). If you have questions about what you hear or observe, please discuss them with us. We hope you will visit with us again!

Attendance continues to be down due to so much sickness among our members. Some have returned to be with us, but others are still unable to assemble. We miss you and hope you will be better soon. We have been blessed with visitors recently and for that we are always grateful.

Several of our young people and parents were away for "Youth Unite" hosted by the Willette church of Christ this past Sunday afternoon/evening. Some returned to be with us just as our service was ending. We appreciate Justin and Sarah and all others who assist with the youth program. Let's all encourage our youth and remember to thank God, as we did in a prayer Sunday morning, for **every** age group within the congregation. Let there be no generation gap!

Justin has also planned a bowling outing for this Saturday, December 10. The cost is \$10 for a couple hours of bowling and shoe rental. See him for more information. A sign-up sheet is posted.

Ben Smith is to be with us this Sunday evening to give a report on the Lord's work in India. This is always an informative and encouraging report as thousands upon thousands have obeyed the gospel over the past several decades because of this work. Ben will bring us the latest news about the successes and challenges of that work. Plan to be here to hear it. Pray for continued success.

Pray also for the work here as the budget committees meet, plan, and present their findings to the elders who will be finalizing and presenting our 2017 budget the last of December/the first of January. Every member should be engaged in prayer and purposing in heart to be a personal part of the Lord's work in the coming year. No resolution or commitment is greater than this. As stated in the last issue, the primary focus is always on the salvation of souls. Will you personally purpose to lead a soul to Christ in 2017?

We are so happy you are here for the mid-week service. Let's all plan to be back on Sunday morning and for all scheduled gatherings every week. Worship and Bible study are ways to increase and strengthen our faith and provide a positive example to others. Hope to see you Sunday morning!

Edward L Anderson

#### **NEWS & NOTES:**

**RESPONSES**: Rebecca Brown responded 11/27/16 requesting prayers first and foremost for forgiveness, but also for strength as she faces medical tests and uncertainty. W. A. Gibbs also recently requested prayers for forgiveness. Both are commended for their faith in God and their desire to do His will.

**SICK:** Rebecca Brown underwent more tests last week with reports pending. Robert Fitts, Carol Woodard's brother underwent back surgery on Monday. Gary Lester remains in Trevecca's Health & Rehab facility in Nashville. Scotty Yeaman is scheduled for another knee surgery in mid-January. Dimple Hicks is now at home after a stay in RRMC. Leslie Alford is in Sumner Regional's CCU due to COPD. Irene Gregory was unable to be with us Sunday. It's great to have Ruby Fisher back with us. Little Josie Morris is back at home after a brief stay in Centennial due to RSV. Carolyn Harris had a reaction to a pneumonia shot and was sick a couple of days last week. The following have been dealing with bronchitis/strep/upper respiratory issues since the last bulletin: Jerry Phillips; Pam and Jody Morris; Richard Davenport; Brooke Grisham; Barbara Jenkins; Judy Grisham; Amanda, Aubrey, and Scarlett Hicks; Faye Maberry; Jake White; Hattie Branham; Seth Hackett; Alex Hackett; Emogene Dixon; and Edward and Barbara Anderson. Gave Yeaman has not been as well the past few days. Joe Hensley's surgery has been postponed until he can consult with a cardiologist. Troy Spivey, Teddy's grandmother and Rick's aunt, was to undergo stomach surgery today (Wed.) in Nashville. It is so nice to have Mary Phillips back home and back with us. W. A. Gibbs' continues his weekly dialysis regimen and is doing well. Mary Jo Hackett is still unable to be with us regularly. Irene Gregory was able to be with Sunday. Janice Anderson is still suffering with her feet and legs. Remember also the following in prayer: Cathy Stafford; Ray Upchurch; Earl Carter; Leslie Alford; Gary and Sherry Lester; Sherry Pritchett; Jennie Burnett; Karen Howell; Jimmy Rigsby; Arnold Rich; Kenneth Reece; Mary Phillips (Molly Goolsby's mother); Cathy Harville; Bob Harville: and Steve Dowell.

NURSING HOME/ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENTS: Opal Agee; Lovell Chaffin; Curtis Richards; Phronia Rose (Kindred); Linda Black (Carthage Pavilion); Imogene Reeves (Palace – RBS); Frank Williams, Elm Croft in Lebanon; Vestle Gentry (White Oak Nursing Facility, Spartanburg, S.C.).

**SHUT-IN AT HOME**: Wilma Richardson; Shirley Holmes; James Hall; and Pat Paysinger.

IN MILITARY: Jana Watson, Ann Carter's granddaughter (Army); Matt West, Linda Dicken's grandson (Marines); Zack Tongate, son of Scott & Debbie Tongate (Marines); Randy Carter's sons and Lacey Crockett's brothers, Derek (Army) & Landon Carter (Coast Guard); Benjamin Gentry (Marines.

"A soft answer turns away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."

SHE IS HERE! <u>Jessica</u> and <u>Jon Grim</u> are the proud parents of a sweet baby girl, <u>Mary Patricia</u>, born Monday, December 5 at 8:05 A.M. She weighed 6 lbs. 3.6 oz. and was 18.5 inches. Mother and baby are reported to be doing well at Tennova Middle (UMC), Lebanon. <u>Larry</u> and Jan Silcox are proud grandparents.

**CONGRATULATIONS:** To <u>Gregory Lee Norton</u>, grandson of <u>Frances Kemp</u> and son of <u>Glenn</u> and <u>Kathy Norton</u> of Lebanon, on his graduation from TTU (12/10/16), with a B.S. in Education.

**THANK YOU:** The church has received and read a very nice "Thank You" note from Nick, Pam, Jodie, and Josie Morris.

**CARDS FOR SHUT-INS:** If you have not done the cards for our shutins, please do so ASAP. Stacks of cards and the bags for those to receive them are on the table in the foyer. It will be a blessing to those who receive them and to you as well.

#### "I HATE YOU!"

These words were written in somewhat small print on a sidewalk leading into an eating establishment. The print was not remotely close to the size of most graffiti. Maybe that's why it aroused my curiosity. As I stooped to get a better look and became aware of what it said, I wondered if the scribe was addressing someone in particular or just anyone who happened to read it. Perhaps the person was just "mad at the world", but I hope it was only a hasty and impulsive reaction to a perceived wrong, which has already been forgiven and forgotten.

Hate is defined as "strong dislike or ill will for; loathe, despise" (Webster's New World Dictionary, p 663). A principle Biblical Greek word (miseo), "is used especially...of malicious and unjustifiable feelings toward others, whether towards the innocent or by mutual animosity" (W. E. Vine's Expository Dictionary of NT Words, p 198).

Hate is of longstanding in the world. Cain evidently hated Abel, his brother (See 1 John 3:11-15). Jesus was the targeted object of hatred and He reminded His disciples that they, too, would be "hated for (His) name's sake" by men *and* nations (Matt. 10:22; 24:9).

However, unlike leaders of some other religions, Jesus teaches His followers to "do good to those who hate you" (Luke 6:27). This is a major emphasis in the Sermon on the Mount: "Love your enemies, bless them who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who despitefully use you, and persecute you, that you may be the children of your Father who is in heaven..." (Matt. 5:43-45).

Because of Jesus' influence and teachings, there are many people in this and other communities, who would leave an entirely different message beside the aforementioned one: "GOD LOVE YOU, AND I LOVE YOU, TOO!"

Edward L Anderson