

Prayers Can't Be Answered Unless They Are Prayed

~ by Helen Steiner Rice ~

A life without purpose is barren indeed -
There can't be a harvest unless you plant a seed,
There can't be attainment unless there's a goal,
And man's but a robot unless there's a soul...

If we send no ships out, no ships will come in,
And unless there's a contest, nobody can win...
For games can't be won unless they are played
And prayers can't be answered unless they are prayed...

So whatever is wrong with your life today,
You'll find a solution if you kneel down and pray
Not just for pleasure, enjoyment and health,
Not just for honors and prestige and wealth...

But pray for a purpose to make life worth living,
And pray for the joy of unselfish giving,
For great is your gladness and rich your reward
When you make your life's purpose the choice of the Lord.



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The End of Your Search for a Friendly Church . . .

Eating Meals Together - Not as Tough as You Think

~ by Don Loftis

Research continues to underscore the value of families eating meals together. A TIME magazine article noted: "Studies show that the more often families eat together, the less likely kids are to smoke, drink, do drugs, get depressed, develop eating disorders, and consider suicide, and the more likely they are to do well in school, delay having sex, eat their vegetables, learn big words, and know which fork to use." If such 'sit-down' moments seem impossible to you, or increase familial guilt, let me remind you of two things.

First, the menu and the décor are not as important as spending time together talking. The key is not so much what we eat (nutrition is another article), but what we do while we eat it. Made-from-scratch, micro-waved, or carry-out meals may all be effectively used at the table.

Secondly, there are tools available to simplify menu design, grocery shopping, and preparation in advance. Leanne Ely has authored a book entitled Saving Dinner in which she provides six dinner ideas a week, provides you the recipes for each entrée, and even compiles a shopping list for all the ingredients. Check out SavingDinner.com for more information.

Spouses need to spend time eating together as well. That is why date nights and coffee together are important marriage builders.

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SUNDAY SERVICES

Bible Study.....9:30a.m.
Worship.....10:30a.m.
Evening Worship.....6:00p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Class.....10:00a.m.
Bible Study.....7:00p.m.

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WEB PAGES

www.southfloridaavenuechurchofchrist.com
www.sfacc.net

You Are Invited . . .

GOSPEL MEETING

April
7-10
7:00 p.m.
Each Evening

~ **Except Sunday** ~

9:30 & 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.



David South
of Memphis, Tennessee

Brother South has been preaching for the Woodland Hills church of Christ in Cordova, Tennessee, since 2010. Prior to this he taught in the School of Biblical Studies at Freed-Hardeman University for twelve years. He received formal education from Freed-Hardeman University (BA, 1987), Oklahoma Christian University (MA, 1994), Harding School of Theology (M.Div., 2002). In his twenty-five years of preaching, he has served churches of Christ in Mississippi, Missouri, and Tennessee. He has been on short-term mission trips to Honduras, Ukraine, and England. He and his wife, Barbie, have three children and three grandchildren.



Chad Tagtow will be back with us to lead our singing in this meeting. We are looking forward to a great meeting with great preaching, great singing and great fellowship together. Please be planning now to be present for every service and bring others with you.

A Warm Welcome Is Extended To All

The Incredible Word of God!

Mark N. Posey

God has promised to use His Word in the lives of those who hear it. Incredible things will happen when we use God's Word, the Bible, in soul-winning, discipleship and spiritual growth. Thus, the Word of God is like...

1. The Bible is like seed (Luke 8:11; 1 Peter 1:23). A wise old professor of Biology stood in front of his class of eager students. The professor held a little brown seed in his hand. Quietly he spoke to his class. "I know the exact composition of this seed; it is made up of nitrogen, hydrogen, oxygen and carbon. I know the exact proportions, and I can make a seed that will look exactly like it. However, if I plant my seed, it will come to nothing; its elements will simply be absorbed into the soil. However, if I plant this seed, the one that God made, it will become a plant, because it contains something that mine doesn't – life!"

2. The Bible is a hammer (Jeremiah 23:29). God's Word, like a hammer, breaks in pieces stubborn rocks of resistance. These rocks could be mental lusts, sinful habits and different kinds of weaknesses. We apply God's Word to get delivered from such things in our lives.

3. The Bible is like a fire (Jeremiah 23:29). God's Word, like fire, illuminates, comforts, penetrates, purifies and even destroys. The hammer is symbolic of our hard hearts being broken into small parts so the fire can melt the wickedness away and give us a purification that only God can provide.

4. The Bible is like a sword (Hebrews 4:12; Ephesians 6:17). God's Word can reach into the innermost recesses of one's being! No heart is too tough, and no soul is too dark. God's Word is living (4:12a), powerful (12:4b), penetrating (4:12c) and discerning (4:12d). It can pierce and change us!

5. The Bible is like food & drink (Matthew 4:4; John 4:10; Psalm 19:10). Honey is sweet and pleasant to eat, but God's Word is sweeter still. Living water: In ancient times, they called spring water living water because it seemed "alive" as it bubbled up from the ground. At first glance, it might seem that Jesus tells this woman about a nearby active spring, but Jesus made a play on words with the phrase "living water," because He means the spiritual water that quenches our spiritual thirst and gives life. God's words must be more precious than food.

6. The Bible is like a mirror (James 1:23). Mirrors show needed change and help us to see ourselves clearly. A person looks in the mirror to do something, not just to admire the image. Even so, a Christian looks into God's Word to do something about it, not just to store up facts that he will not use.

7. The Bible is like a light (Psalm 119:105). The Bible is clear and comprehensive to any open-minded person that will read it. The Psalmist felt that as he walked the road of life, the Word of God made his steps clear. He would not know where to step without the guidance of God's Word. The blessing of those "who were once enlightened" have experienced the light of God shining upon them. This ancient Greek word ("enlightened") has the same meaning as the English word. It identifies those that possess true knowledge and understanding of the Gospel (Hebrews 6:4).

In conclusion, the rain and snow eventually return to heaven, but not before accomplishing their purpose on earth. Even so, God's Word, sent down from heaven, does not return to Him void. Instead, it always fulfills His purpose on earth. *"So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; It shall not return to Me void, But it shall accomplish what I please, And it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it"* (Isaiah 55:11 NKJV).

SFA FAMILY MATTERS

Prayer List

Our Members: It was good to see David Deal in worship services Sunday. Mary Shoemake, Sam Bolding, Duane Nelson, Margaret Coone & Sharon Washington.

Relatives: Judy Ford's son had a heart catheterization Monday. Paul Romine's mother-in-law, Mary Lucas is in the burn unit at Tampa General after inhaling smoke when her house burned. Kim Sheffield, Earl Anderson, Don Moore, Karen Swiney, Nina Hart, Annie Beth Coone.

Shut In Members: Newman Kirkland, Artis Bassett.

Others: Donna Arcand, Christina Feussner, Graham McDonald, Kathy Peel & Danny Edmonds.

Upcoming Events

Apr. 6th - The Area-Wide Ladies Brunch will be hosted by the ladies of our congregation, at 9:00 a.m. There will be a planning meeting immediately following the brunch.

April 7th - 10th - Gospel Meeting here at So. Florida Ave. Church of Christ. David South will be the speaker.

April 7th - Pot-luck Dinner in the fellowship hall after our morning worship service. Members, please bring food & drinks for your family, and a little extra for our guests.

April 21st - 25th - Gospel Meeting at Eagle Lake Church of Christ. Speaker will be Sam Willcot. See bulletin board for more information.

Visitors

Mr. & Mrs. Nathaniel Bishop & Violet. Mrs. Pam Bonine, Mr. Aaron Randolph, Jane Jessee, Bill & Carlene Long.

Sympathy

To Betty Thornhill, and Kathy Sweeney in the passing of their aunt & great-aunt Louise Coker on March 30th.

Lads to Leaders

Seventeen Lads to Leaders and 9 adults attended the Lads to Leaders Convention in Orlando last weekend. There were several adults who went on Saturday to help with some of the activities. We are so very proud of our young people

Hither, Thither and Yon

Bob & Bea Pratt are traveling to W. Virginia, Tennessee & Alabama to visit relatives. They will be gone for 2 weeks. Also, our winter residents, Bert & Gloria Allen, and Janet Moore will be going back North for the summer. Please keep all of these in your prayers. Also those who are serving in the military.

SCHEDULED TO SERVE

April

Frank Hamby **Table** Stacey Paulin
Ken Walker **Assist** Phil Fife

April 7, 2013
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jim Turner
Prayer Frank Hamby

10:30 A.M.

Announcements Kenny French
Song Leader Chad Tagtow
Opening Prayer Bobby Sheumaker
Closing Prayer David Deal

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader Chad Tagtow
Opening Prayer John McShane
Closing Prayer Paul Romine
Greeters Kenny & Reba French
Att. Cards Ian Enamorado & Tucker Sweeney
Open & Close Building David Anderson

Wed. April 10, 2013

Song Leader Chad Tagtow
Opening Prayer John McShane
Closing Prayer Jeremy Padilla

*Please meet in the library. If you cannot serve, please call **Chuck Wyatt**, so he can get a replacement - 859-5231.*

Sunday, March 14, 2013
9:30 A.M.

Song at Bible Class Jim Turner
Prayer Ken Walker

10:00 A.M.

Announcements Kenny French
Song Leader Jason Hendrix
Opening Prayer David Anderson
Closing Prayer Tim Croson

6:00 P.M.

Song Leader David Williams
Opening Prayer Jeremy Padilla
Closing Prayer Jim Turner
Greeters The Williams Family
Att. Cards Paul & Sebastian
Open & Close Building David Anderson

Wed. April 17, 2013

Song Leader Frank Hamby
Opening Prayer Steve Hunley
Closing Prayer Jimmy Sweeney

~ HOW WE ARE GIVING ~

Mar. 10 \$4,776.07
Mar. 17 \$3,804.70
Mar. 24 \$3,540.44
Mar. 31 \$4,994.51
Contribution Average \$4,166.25
2013 Weekly Budget \$4,255.13