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Prayer.....Bob Cole

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Room#106: 3-18 mo.
Cradle Roll
Vicki Cole

. 10:15 AM: Worship



9:00 AM Bible Class.....	109
10:15 AM Worship.....	192
PM Worship.....	113
Wednesday Bible Class.....	114
Contribution.....	\$10,577.00

BAPTISMAL ASSISTANTS:
Charlie Burns & Kim Nickolson



70
WEST
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Welcomes You!

And to man He said,
‘Behold,
the fear of the Lord,
that is wisdom,
And to depart from evil
is understanding.’ “

Job 28:28 NKJV



JONAH



The man Jonah is a mystery. First alluded to in 2 Kings 14:25[i], all that is recorded of him there is that he prophesied concerning the restoration of the “territory of Israel from the entrance of Hamath to the sea of the Arabah”; he was the son of Amittai and was from Gath Hepher. Nothing else is recorded of him until we get to the book which bears his name. That he was a real, historical person, there can be little doubt. Jonah would have lived and prophesied just before or during the reign of Jeroboam II circa 820 BC.[ii] As we turn to the book of Jonah, it seems that some time after the prophecy of the restoration of the territories of Israel, the Lord commissioned Jonah to go and deliver a message to Nineveh, a city of the Assyrians. Jonah’s task, as given in Jonah 1:2, was a simple one: “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it...” It seems that he had no problem being God’s prophet so long as he, himself, liked the prophecy but when he did not agree with God or did not like God’s plan, he decided to remove himself from God’s service. Herein, is our introduction to the man, Jonah.

As Jonah fled “from the presence of the Lord,” we must not take that as he felt that he could get away from the presence of God. As a prophet of God, he knew better. But rather, Jonah sought to remove himself from God’s service and his responsibility of obedience to God’s words. Jonah’s plan was to go to Tarshish which would have most likely been Tartessus in Spain as the Phoenicians had a great trading partnership with that city (Clarke, Adam; e-Sword).[iii] Now, from there has been much debate as to whether the rest of the book is an allegory or whether it is actually factual. The difficulty that most have with the book being factual is a man surviving within the throat or belly of a fish (whether it be a whale or any other marine animal). However, let us not miss the fact that scripture (the wholly and holy inspired Word of God) states that the Lord Himself “prepared a great fish” to carry out this mission (Jonah 1:17). That verse alone should tell me that this fish, whatever type of fish or marine animal it may have been, was like no other fish before or since this episode. Think about what Jonah describes in 2:3-6; it seems that Jonah was able to see the bottom of the oceans from the belly of this fish. Having experienced all of this and seeing now what the Lord has allowed him to see and being reminded of the mercy of God, Jonah prays and the Lord forthwith causes His fish to vomit out Jonah on dry ground.

Now resolute to carry out his mission, Jonah goes to Nineveh and cries out against that great city as he had been originally commissioned. Nineveh repents, God relents, and Jonah vents.

While many lessons can be learned from Jonah, let us learn these three: 1) To remove oneself from the service of God is foolhardy. Just because we may try to remove ourselves from our God-given responsibilities does not mean that the responsibility is not still mine. 2) God’s Word is powerful. At the hearing of the preaching of Jonah, Nineveh repented and God did not destroy them. It would not be until 150 years later that Nineveh would be destroyed. 3) God’s ways are better than man’s ways. Jonah would have had this great city destroyed that included 120,000 innocent children but God would have the entirety of the population come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9). Let us all remember... be of service to our God and fellowman, that God’s Word is powerful, and adhere to the way of God and not man.

[i] All Scripture references are from the New King James version unless otherwise noted.

[ii] McClintock and Strong, *Cyclopedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature*, Volume IV, p. 989, 1981.

[iii] Clarke, Adam, e-Sword, *Adam Clarke’s Commentary on the Bible*, public domain.

Josh Remo

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LIGHTPOST CALENDAR

TODAY!!! SUNDAY, JANUARY 11

- ♦ **ALL PARENTS/TEENS –CYC MEETING**
♦ **11:30AM•MPB**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13

- ♦ **TUESDAY LADIES’ VISITATION•11:30AM•MPB•Bring a lunch!**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14

- ♦ **TEENS’ DEVO•5:30PM•MPB**

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16– SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

- ♦ **CHAT CYC (CHALLENGE YOUTH CONFERENCE) DALLAS, TX**
♦ **Van(s) leave MPB @12PM•(Please bring or eat lunch before arriving) Vans/Teens return on Sunday, 1/18**

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17

- ♦ **TEENS’ DEVO•5:30PM•MPB**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 18

- ♦ **L2L BIBLE BOWL PRACTICE•7PM•MPB**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 20

- ♦ **TUESDAY LADIES’ VISITATION•11:30AM•MPB•Bring a lunch!**

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22

- ♦ **SENIOR MOMENTS: FELLOWSHIP & GAME DAY•1-5PM•MPB**
♦ **•Bring Favorite Games & Snacks!**

SATURDAY, JANUARY 24

- ♦ **DEALING WITH GRIEF SEMINAR WITH BRO. JERRY MARTIN•10AM-3PM•Auditorium & MPB•Lunch provided in MPB •Invite your friends & family!**
- ♦ **PARENT HOSTED JR. YOUTH & TEEN DEVO @DISHONGH’S HOUSE**
♦ **•5-7:30PM•102 E LAKELAND PT**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 25

- ♦ **L2L BIBLE BOWL PRACTICE•7PM•MPB**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

- ♦ **TUESDAY LADIES’ VISITATION•11:30AM•MPB•Bring a lunch!**

Prayer Requests

SYMPATHIES EXTENDED TO

Pat Richens & Family, her sister, **Judy Straut**, (88) of Brooklyn, NY, passed away on Wednesday, January 7th

MEMBERS

Phyllis Allen•Charlie Burns•Bob Garner
Billie Gregory•Jean Kazimier
Bob Johnston•Walton/Elaine Kyle
Christie Landrum•Carla March
Ricky/Zandra Mendenhall•Glenda Pannell
Karen Pate•Leslie Pate•**Stuart Reeves**
Freddie Sharpe•Neva Tharp•**Diana Ward**
♦ **Dean, Martha** –sciatica has eased up some & she is feeling much better, follow up w/Dr. 1/19
♦ **Wedsted, Kenneth** –Surgery scheduled for Tuesday, 1/9 @CHI St. Vincent’s in Hot Springs
♦ **Wireman, Patricia** –Hip revision surgery scheduled for Tuesday, 1/16

SHUT-INS

Craig Archer•Mike/Shirley Baka
Henry Cook•LaVonne Depew
Ola Freibolt•**Debbie Frenzel**
Marcelle Green•Lorene Mount
Charles/**Virginia Parker**•David Pendleberry
Wes Poole•Pat Richens•**Judy Walters**
Linda Woeppel
♦ **Freibolt, Ola** –will have surgery on her leg soon
♦ **Parker, Virginia** - taken to CHI St. Vincent’s w/pneumonia. She is home now

ALL MILITARY & FIRST RESPONDERS

* Schuler, Tommy (Army) Fort Johnson, LA
* Schuler, Tracy (Navy) Meridian, MS
* Spellings, Randy (Army Nat’l Guard) Jackson, TN
* *Tombs, Levi (AF) Home now*
* Vincent, Tyler (VF) Garland County
* Wethington, “A.J” Anthony (AF) Whitman AFB, MO
* Wells, Andrew & Madison-GCPD/HSPD

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Jim Haught•Becky McCombs
Gloria Miller•**Jerry Reeves**
Don Rutherford•John Smith
Bob Troutman•Harrel Walters•Kay Ward

- ♦ **Butler, William (Willie’s son) Prayers for health**
- ♦ **Dishongh, Breanna (Dishongh’s granddaughter) Will have hip surgery on 1/15. She has been in pain for over a year**
- ♦ **Haught, Jim (Vicki Cole’s BIL) -has been discharged from hospital & is now in rehab.**

BATTLING CANCER

Jennifer Baker•**June Beach**•**JL Bice**
Jim Blagg•Nona Barton•Sherry Daniel
Denise Drennan•**Ella Fisher**
Sheree Gallagher•Patti Genow
Jerry Harris•Jack Haywood•**Terry Horne**
Kirsten James•**Jeff Janus**•**Alvena Jones**
Sandy Land•Brenda Lavender
Daryl Macon•Phyllis Madlen
Eugene Pipkins•Delorious Tolleson
Bettie Lou White
♦ **Constant, Allen (Steve Brooks’ son-in-law) Diagnosed with kidney cancer**

MISSIONS (Matthew 28:18-20)

❖**Kakinada, India-Ronnie Gootam**
❖**Nigeria -Chad Wagner**
❖**Pacific Islands -Randy English**