

## Making a Great Leader

by Robert Notgrass

When we consider elders in the church and other leaders, we can read from the Scriptures what qualities to look for in a leader. For instance, in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1 we find the qualities that make an elder (bishop, pastor, presbyter). But now what? What do I mean by this? Well, when one humbles himself before God and obeys the Gospel and becomes a Christian, Paul and Peter describe them as coming out of the water as a baby (Romans 6:3-4; 1 Peter 2:2). But, if that is true of Christians, is that not also true of leaders in the church? An leader worth his or her salt knows that qualities are just a starting point for leadership.

Leadership is hard and often ugly. It has its growing pains, and church leadership is no exception. In the church, elders who are appointed to office oftentimes leave because they did not realize all the difficulties that are involved or they presumed that once they are in that role that it is smooth sailing from there. But hardly. There are countless elders who have thrown in the towel. Why? Could it be that they gave it all they could? Or, could it be that they were not continually equipped for the ministry of elders or the ministry of deacons? I believe that church leaders should be looking for ways they can develop as a

leader and as a follower of Christ. That means that it will take more than just reading the Bible because staying stagnant is easy. But, great church leaders don't choose what is easy; they choose what is best for the church. So, consider if you will, a small list of characteristics above and beyond the qualities found in the Bible.

It begins by knowing that the very best church leaders are life long learners. Leaders should always possess an insatiable curiosity. This is because they do not know everything and are constantly and consistently seeking ways to improve themselves and the qualities that got them into the role of an elder. These leaders are looking at what other church leaders are doing and seeing if there are better ways of handling things or solving problems or if the church is equipped to the best of their knowledge. But, those who believe they do not need help from others or that they need no additional knowledge need to reexamine themselves and why they are leaders.

Great leaders are wonderful listeners. They can hear a pin drop and what I mean is that there is nothing that will empower and encourage others you serve with than to know that you listen to them. Great leaders are not just a body in the room. They are more than just being present. They are involved.

Along similar lines of listening is being a leader who has a mentor. No great leader came to know what he knows without someone helping him or her along the way. And, in the church, it is essential, in my humble opinion, to have a mentor. Preachers are constantly seeking advice from those who are older. Why not elders? Do they think there is no need? Do they think they are better than others? Do they think that just because each congregation is autonomous that no one could share ideas? If so, then how did each letter of the New Testament float around to each congregation? Maybe the Roman Christians should have kept their letter to themselves? You see, the best leaders understand that there is much to learn from leaders who have gone before them. If you don't have a mentor, ask yourself, "Who is someone that is where I want to be in 10-20 years?" and ask them to coffee (I go to Starbucks). Pick their brain and ask them how they got where they are. Ask your mentor to meet with you on a regular basis. That might mean on a monthly basis or a few times a year.

But, even more beyond these qualities is that the best leaders live on the solution-side of life. Why do we always look at things as a problem to overcome? Must leaders always see themselves as a victim? Must we shift the blame, pass the bucket or can we just find the solution?? Having a solution mentality is realizing that you are a peacemaker and that life is full of hardships and challenges, but that it's our

responsibility to ask the question, "How can I make this better?" And, when there is an issue, nothing is better when one sees a wise and humble eldership seek for a solution. This is vital to an eldership.

Another great characteristic of a leader in the church is to not be a "know it all." You can and you may be, but you are wrong. That may sting! But, who is perfect that is reading this? Not me and certainly not you. Only Christ is perfect and only He is sinless. So, remember that great leaders don't have all the answers, and they know that. They are humble and willing to admit when they are wrong or when they need help. And in fact, a great eldership consists of great elders who make each other's weaknesses strong.

I hope you can see that there is so much more than just qualities of an elder or a deacon or preacher or any other leader in and out of the church. Everyone has their ups and downs, their challenges and roadblocks, but great leaders approach each one and the things they face with truth and grace. Great leaders know when to say yes and when to say no. Great leaders know when they are about to burnout and how to slow down so they can continue to fight the good fight of faith. And, they have people in their life who tell them when they are out of balance and help them focus on what is important. May we all learn from these few characteristics.

# Spring Break Activities

March 14-17

## **Monday (6:00 PM - 10:30 PM)**

Movie & Hangout

Eat before you come

Students - \$7.00

Parents - \$9.12

We will go see "The Young Messiah"

## **Tuesday (11:00 AM - 2:30 PM)**

6th - 12th Grades

Lunch with Young at Heart (Lunch provided)

Service Project to Follow

## **Wednesday (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)**

Lads to Leaders (L2L) Work Day

Bulletin boards, group projects, Event help

Lunch provided

## **Thursday (10:00 AM - 2:00 PM)**

2nd Annual Spring Break Scavenger Hunt

Lunch: CiCi's - Bring \$\$ for lunch

# Correspondence/Encouragement

## Inmate Correspondence:

### **Zachory Cabano #01886823**

Beto Unit  
1391 FM 3328  
Tennessee Colony, TX 75880

### **Caleb Ivie #01946171**

Hutchins Unit  
1500 E. Langdon Rd.  
Dallas, TX 75241

### **Paul Jones #01934698**

Bradshaw Unit  
PO Box 9000  
Henderson, TX 75653

## Missions Correspondence:

### **Cherokee Home for Children**

Director: Delton McGuire  
PO Box 295  
Cherokee, TX 76832  
Email: chc@centex.net

### **New Zealand Harvest Missions**

James & Emily Cammock  
PO Box 412  
Waikato Mail Centre  
Hamilton 3240  
New Zealand  
Email: church-of-christ-cammock@hotmail.com

### **La Poynor Prison Ministry**

Steve & Carrie Handley  
11353 CR 4345  
La Rue, TX 75770  
Email: shandley56@gmail.com

### **WVBS Online School**

Director: Russell Haffner  
25 Lantana Ln.  
Maxwell, TX 78656  
Website: school.wvbs.org

## Southwest School of Bible Studies:

### **Corey Tackett (1<sup>st</sup> Year Student)**

1215 W. Slaughter Ln. #1424  
Austin, TX 78748

## Encouragement:

### **Melba & Eleanor Bower**

2011 Fairfax  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Don & Shirley Bowen**

1100 Woodcastle  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Wanda Brown**

3002 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. #206  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Janice Elder**

809 Ambassador  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Gayle & Christine Garner**

915 N. 26th St.  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Meagan Gould**

800 Medinah  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Marjorie King**

304 SECR 2190  
Corsicana, TX 75109

### **Neta Marshall**

1308 Woodland Ct.  
Allen, TX 75002

### **Thelma Martin**

1201 Ficklin Circle  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Bud & Barbara Moore**

441 NWCR 2160  
Barry, TX 75102

### **Darrell & Darlyn Olsen**

3820 FM 637  
Corsicana, TX 75109

### **Henry & Eula Parrish**

325 FM 55  
Purdon, TX 76679

### **Otis & Sandy Perryman**

PO Box 356  
Purdon, TX 76679

### **Kathi Pruitt**

1001 Madison Dr.  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Irene Ross**

820 N. 23 1/2 St.  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Scott & Paula Spillyards**

1702 Waterway Cove  
Whitehouse, TX 75791

### **Gertrude Walker**

1612 Woodcrest  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Mike & Charlotte Weaver**

3070 FM 3243  
Corsicana, TX 75109

### **Louis & Patty Williams**

1201 Ficklin Circle  
Corsicana, TX 75110

### **Gay Wright**

3004 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave. #518  
Corsicana, TX 75110

## Mission Works

### **Westhill Works**

Benevolence Program

### **Local Works**

Cherokee Children's Home - www.chc4kids.org  
House to House, Heart to Heart  
In Search of the Lord's Way  
Preaching Students - Southwest School of Bible Studies  
The Truth in Love - www.ttil.tv  
WVBS Online School - school.wvbs.org

### **Prison Works**

La Poynor Prison Ministry - Steve & Carrie Handley

### **Foreign Works**

New Zealand Harvest Missions - James & Emily Cammock

## Leadership

### **Elders**

Percell Milton - 903.673.1819  
Paul Slaughter - 903.872.1228  
Paul Stewart - 903.872.3464  
Darwin Thomas - 903.695.0176

### **Deacons**

James Ainsworth - 903.872.1390  
Scott Barham - 903.641.0133  
David Baumgartner - 903.654.4057  
Zach Drain - 903.521.6055  
Dan Gibson - 903.641.9587  
Joshua Haden - 903.602.9645  
Micah Haden - 903.673.1177  
James Horn - 903.599.9114

Michael Jones - 214.803.5984  
Roy McCullough - 903.872.2069  
Greg Olsen - 903.654.1406  
James Olsen - 903.874.8918  
Rusty Owens - 903.695.0095  
Billy Roughton - 903.654.4032  
Dickie Russell - 903.874.4457  
David Shastid - 903.257.6464  
Brent Stewart - 903.641.9052  
Justin Williams - 903.875.8288

### **Ministers**

Sam Dilbeck - 903.229.8415 (Pulpit)  
Cory Myers - 512.627.6672 (Youth & Family)  
Tim Cooke - 903.641.5515 (Seniors)

# Prayer List

**Patty Williams** broke her ankle last Sunday. Please, pray for her recovery.

**Our Love & Sympathy** are extended to Sandy Perryman and Charlotte Weaver and all of their family at the passing of Sandy's sister, Barbara Wrinkle. Her service was held Thursday.

**Continue to Remember:** Don Bowen, Melba Bower, Bobby Compton, Gayle Garner, Buster Hayes, Marjorie King, Robert Lee, Neta Marshall, Velma M'Dougald, Bud Moore, Darlyn Olsen, Henry & Eula Parrish, Kathi Pruitt, Paula Spillyards, Meagan Gould, Jayme Schafer, Keith Weaver

**Spring Seminar** hosted by the Young at Heart Group on Friday, April 8 at 6:30 PM. Jay Lockhart will speak on the theme "Press On." Everyone is invited!

## Birthdays This Week

- March 14 - Pat Ellis, Percell Milton
- March 15 - Janice Elder
- March 16 - Jana Dougherty
- March 17 - Seth Haden
- March 18 - Brian Hand

## Next Week's Adult Class

Galilean Ministry 2  
(Mt. 3:35; 10:1-11:1; 13:54-58; Mk. 6:1-13; Lk. 9:1-6)

**Service Men:** Clay Bayes, Jason Book, Alston Compton, Robert Johnson, Ryan Payne, Douglas Ramsey, Ryan Stewart, Morgan Weaver, and Payton Weaver

# Announcements

**"Thanking my Westhill family** for the prayers, calls, cards, and the words of comfort spoken to me when Daddy passed away. *'Kind words are like honey, sweet to the soul.'* (Prov. 16:24)" Love to all, Bobby & Carol Barham

**Your donation** of \$6,598.25 to aid tornado victims was received by the Churches of Christ Disaster Relief, Inc. and was greatly appreciated. They are prepared to send more shipments of needed items to disaster victims as needed. "Thanks...for your support and please keep us in your prayers as we continue to help others in need."

**See Page 2 for Spring Break Activities Happening This Week!!**

**Jr. High & High School Boys' Campout** this weekend, March 18-19. See Cory or Sam for more details.

**Jr. High & High School Devo** next Sunday night after services in the Outreach Center.

**Howe Men's Day** is Saturday, March 26 at 9:00 AM. Brant Stubblefield will address "Getting Crossfit." Lunch will be provided.

**Colleyville Ladies' Day** Saturday, April 2 at 8:30 AM. Lunch will be provided. Evelyn Bonner will speak on "Recipe for Peace: Lessons from Philippians."

## Records for March 6, 2016

Bible Class .....	164
AM Worship.....	246
PM Worship .....	151
Wednesday .....	148
Contribution .....	\$6,867.75

## Privileged to Serve

<b>Song Leader</b>	Tyler Baumgartner
<b>Opening Prayer</b>	Paul Slaughter
<b>Communion Leader</b>	Russell Bankes
<b>Communion Servers</b>	
Don Corley	David Dilbeck
Brian Hand	James Horn
Clay Jackson	Buck Murphy
Greg Olsen	Phil Pillans
George Schmidt	Dalton Shastid
Kyle Slaughter	Gene Steinkraus
Justin Williams	
<b>Closing Prayer</b>	Scott Barham
<b>Nursery</b>	Ericka Kinkade & Kolby Kinkade
<b>Security</b>	Zach Drain, Mike Drain, Billy Roughton
<b>PM Song Leader</b>	Brody Owens
<b>PM Opening Prayer</b>	George Schmidt
<b>PM Closing Prayer</b>	Jim Milam
<b>Wed. Song Leader</b>	Justin Williams
<b>Wed. Devotional</b>	Wade Hall
<b>March Contact Elder</b>	Paul Slaughter - 903.872.1228