

Those to Serve

Sunday 12-06-2009

Sunday Morning Worship:

Announcements..... Bob Hedges
 Song Leader..... Hal Roper
 Opening Prayer..... Rance Robison
 Closing Prayer..... Austin Neal

Month of DECEMBER 2009

Sunday Morning Lord's Table

South Side:

Jerry Freeman
 Rodney Cook
 Austin Neal

North Side:

Royce Armstrong
 David Neal
 Charles Kyle

Sunday Evening Lord's Table

Grady Duncan Ron Traugber

Sunday Evening Worship:

Announcements..... Bob Hedges
 Song Leader..... Daniel McCary
 Opening PM Prayer..... Royce Armstrong
 Closing PM Prayer..... Ronnie Stewart

Serving Wednesday Night—Dec. 09- 2009

Announcements Bob Hedges
 Song Leader Weldon Miller
 First Prayer..... Grady Duncan
 Closing Prayer..... Ron Traugber

*If you plan to be out of town or are not physically able to serve, please call someone to take your place. or call the church office.

Attendance for the week of 11-29-2009

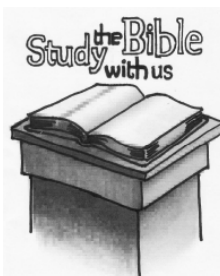
Bible Classes..... 95
 Morning Worship..... 145
 Evening Worship 88
 Tuesday Ladies Class 07
 Wednesday Night 103
 Regular Contribution \$ 3,951.32
 New Construction Fund Contributions.....\$ -0-

Averages To Date This Year

Bible Classes..... 99
 Morning Worship.....139
 Evening Worship 98
 Tuesday Ladies Class 12
 Wednesday Night 93
 Regular Contribution.....\$ 4,275.20
 New Construction Fund Contributions to date..... \$ 78,494.00
 (Also includes transfers and interest earned)

PLEASE NOTE: This bulletin is formatted Friday morning each week. Any news items or articles you wish included must be submitted to the Editor no later than Thursday Night. You may call Rhodney Freeman at 903-572-1181 (home) or 903-572-1136 (Office)

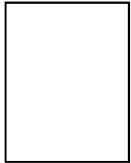
Today's Sermons



AM: "The Narrow Way #1"
Kris Groda, Preaching

PM: "I've Got The Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy, Down in my heart. Where?"
Kris Groda, Preaching

North Jefferson Church of Christ
 P.O. Box 963
 Mt. Pleasant, TX 75456



Address Correction Requested

Assembly Times

Sunday

Bible Classes9:00AM
 Worship10:00AM
 6:00PM

Tuesday

Ladies Bible Class ..10:00AM
 (September—May)

Wednesday

Bible Classes7:00PM

Church Office:
 903.572.1136

Elders

Gene Campbell
 Weldon Miller
 Wayne Pickrel

Deacons

Grady Duncan
 Jim Duncan
 Jerry Freeman
 Bob Hedges
 Rance Robison
 Hal Roper

Gospel Preacher

Kris Groda

Secretary

Rhodney Freeman

Website:
www.njcofc.com

Email:
njcofc@sbcglobal.net



As the cold of snow
 in the time of harvest,
 so is a faithful messenger
 to them that send him"
 Proverbs 25:13

Volume 11 No. 42 **Founded on the Word—Focused on the World** December 13, 2009

Jeremiah's Emphasis on Bible Reading

By Kris Groda

"The Weeping Prophet" we know as Jeremiah was appointed by God to be a prophet unto the nations before he was ever born (1:5). In fact, Jeremiah was still called a "child" when God started using him to preach the Word (1:6-7). Jeremiah was young, devoted to God, tenderhearted, bold, and very courageous. His forty year ministry was primarily directed toward Judah. He firmly and fearlessly denounced the error of the rulers, priests, princes and false teachers of Judah. He warned them of an impending doom if they failed to repent. He rebuked their backsliding and idolatry, he warned of the fall of Jerusalem and of the Babylonian captivity.

The Message of the Scroll

While the public style of reading scripture isn't specifically mentioned so much in Jeremiah, the emphasis on hearing the word of God is. In fact, the phrase, "Thus saith the Lord" appears 272 times in the book of Jeremiah.

In chapter 36, Jeremiah is preaching during the fourth year of king Jehoiakim's reign, (the second to take the throne after Josiah) approximately 15 years and 3 months before they entered the seventy year Babylonian captivity.

The Lord told Jeremiah to take him a roll of a book, and "write therein all the words that I have spoken unto thee against Israel, and against Judah, and against all the nations, from the day I spake unto thee, from the day of Josiah, even into this day. It may be that the house of Judah will hear all the evil which I purpose to do unto them; that they may return every man from his evil way; that I may forgive their iniquity and their sin" (Jeremiah 36:2-3).

Jeremiah commissioned Baruch to write all the prophetic words that he spoke down in the scroll (v. 4). After the scroll was completed, Jeremiah instructed Baruch to read the roll in the ears of the people at the upper court of the Lord's house upon the fasting day (v.6). It was possible that by hearing the Word, they would present their supplication before the

Lord and would repent of their evil ways (36:7).

Michaiah told Elishama the scribe and all the princes that were sitting there everything that he had heard Baruch say. They called for Baruch to read Jeremiah's words to them. They were afraid (not a godly fear) and were compelled to tell Jehoiakim all about it.

Jehudi read the prophetic words as the princes stood beside King Jehoiakim. We don't know how long the roll was, but Jehudi was only three or four leaves into it when Jehoiakim took a knife and cut the scroll up into pieces and burned it in the fire. By this they demonstrated no fear, a gross irreverence for God's Word, and a repulsive lack of concern for what is right.

Application

How much different are we than Jehoiakim when we demonstrate our boredom or disinterest in His Word? Perhaps our similarities rest on how we value the Word. Jehoiakim's actions did not change or delete God's promises at all. In fact, God even had Jeremiah and Baruch make another copy of what the king destroyed (36:27-32).

Man has tried to ignore God's Word before, some have tried to talk people out of it, cause them to doubt it and dissuade them in some way; some have even tried to destroy it. But it keeps coming back. Voltaire, the French philosopher and skeptic, liked to destroy the faith of many people. He also boasted that within 100 years of his death, the Bible would disappear from the face of the earth. Voltaire died in 1728, but the Bible lives on. The irony of history is that 50 years after his death, the Geneva Bible Society moved into his former house and used his printing presses to print thousands of Bibles.

When Peter got in so much trouble for preaching Christ, Gamaliel said, "Refrain from these men and let them alone: for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought: **But if it be of God, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God**" (Acts 5:38-39).

Your Child Is Dying – Cell Phones 101.....by Rob Whitacre

She could send a message in seconds, without even looking at the keypad. She really never worried about her parents reading the messages because they don't "text." Even if they did, she knew they would never understand the abbreviations and code words. But the coolest thing about her phone was its ability to take pictures. She loved to snap shots of her friends at the ballgame or out shopping. One night, she awoke as her phone signaled an incoming picture. When she opened it, the picture she saw would change her life forever.

It calls, texts, emails, accesses the Web, plays video games, contains an address list, has a built-in calculator, keeps time, has a daily planner, plays music, and takes pictures. There are an estimated 2.5 billion cell phones in use. In fact, in 2006, over 30 countries had more cell phones than they had people. The Turks and Caicos Islands have a saturation rate of 165.7%. 75% of Americans have a cell phone, including 80% of teens, ages 13 to 18.

What's so bad about cell phones? Have you ever heard of "sexting"? According to Wikipedia, "sexting" is the act of sending sexually explicit messages or photos electronically, primarily between cell phones. Sexting was reported as early as 2005 in the *Sunday Telegraph Magazine*, and has since been described as taking place worldwide. It has been reported in Australia, New Zealand, the United States, and Great Britain. In other words, quick messages from phone to phone called texting have turned into sexting. The cameras that made great photos for the scrapbooks have been turned into portable pornographic studios.

Now let's examine some statistics that should wake up the current generation of parents. The number of teenagers who have sent or posted nude or semi-nude pictures or video of themselves by cell phone: **20% of teenagers overall, 22% of teen girls, 18% of teen boys, and 11% of young teen girls ages 13-16.** The percent of teenagers sending or posting sexually suggestive messages: **39% of all teenagers, 37% of teen girls, and 40% of teen boys.** Let's keep digging! Forty-eight percent of teenagers say they have received such messages. Seventy-one percent of teen girls and 67% of teen guys who have sent or posted sexually suggestive content say they have sent or posted this content to a boyfriend or girlfriend. Forty-four percent of both teen girls and teen boys say it is common for sexually suggestive text messages to be shared with people other than the intended recipient. Fifty-one percent of teen girls say pressure from a guy is a reason girls send sexy messages or images; only 18 % of teen boys cited pressure from female counterparts as a reason. Sixty-six percent of teen girls and 60% of teen boys say their most common reason for sending sexy content was to be "fun or flirtatious." Fifty-two percent of teenage girls used sexting as a "sexy present" for their boyfriends. Forty-four percent of both teen girls and teen boys say they sent sexually suggestive messages or images in response to similar content they received. Forty percent of teenage girls said they sent sexually suggestive messages or images as "a joke." Thirty-four percent of teen girls say they sent or posted sexually suggestive content to "feel sexy." **Parents, are you listening?!**

We buy cell phones for our children for one primary reason—**security**. For parents who have teen drivers, cell phones give peace of mind and accountability. On one hand, parents are

to be commended for going the extra mile to protect their children; but with the **cure**, so comes the **curse**. It is what many parents don't know that is killing the souls of our children. What once was used for **security** is now being used for **sin**. As a parent, what can I do to protect my children (adolescents, pre-teens, teens, and young adults)?

1. As with any and all clear and present dangers, talk to your children about it. Ask them: "Have you ever heard of sexting? Has anyone ever sent you an immoral text or picture? Have you ever sent an immoral text or picture to anyone? Did you know it is illegal to send sexually explicit photos?" In fact, just last month, a 15-year-old Pennsylvania girl was charged with creating child pornography for sending images of herself via MySpace to a 27-year-old man.

2. Turn texting off. Texting is too tempting for teens and possesses a threat to their physical and spiritual health. Sexting aside, consider the dangers of texting while driving. Many states are outlawing it while driving and schools are banning it from the classrooms. Maybe it is time parents reevaluate how much texting will be allowed—and under what conditions.

3. As a parent you have an obligation to read and see what your children are doing. If your children have a phone that texts and/or sends pictures, you can receive a copy of all these by making a simple phone call to your provider. You can also purchase monitoring software if your cell carrier won't cooperate (www.pcsndreams.com/Pages/Sexting_Statistics.html). Don't let your children throw the "trust" issue up as a wall to keep you from being a parent. Trust is earned and does not release a parent from being responsible for their child's soul. If you are unable to read the messages, perhaps the following abbreviations will help:

1174 —Nude club

143 — I love you

A3 — Anyplace, Anywhere, Anytime

ASL — Age/Sex/Location

4Q — (Curse Word)

DYHAB — Do You Have A Boyfriend

8—(a marital encounter)

GAP — Got A Picture (of yourself)?

A/S/L/P — Age/Sex/Location/Picture

GNOC — Get Naked On Cam

IMEZRU — I Am Easy, Are You?

BYOB — Bring Your Own Bottle (or Bring Your Own Beer)

(For a more complete list, just Google "text abbreviations" and click the websites carefully).

4. Set an age limit. We are giving our children too much, too soon. With rare exceptions, children and pre-teens don't need cell phones.

5. Make sure your child's phone does not have a camera. I am not accusing every teen of "sexting," but I know that it is a growing trend. Remember, your child may not be sending out sexually explicit texts and photos, but they may be receiving them without your knowledge. Over time, sin wears everyone down. Before long, they will not only be seeing it, they will be sending it.

Please Remember in Prayer: Justin Barker, Rachel Barker, Doris Bell, James & Sue Browning, Billy Campbell, Gene Campbell, Suzanne Charlton, Randy Cooper, Jim Duncan, Barbara Duncan, Irene Duncan, Patsy Duncan, Wade Miller, Wayne Pickrel, Thelma Reed, Bud Roach, Julia Terrell, Rebecca Tippit.

Also: Carolyn (Katy) Cabell, Lucille Cavallo, Denise Hess, Mary Jo Lee, Janice Lineberger, Ruby McFarland, Kent Stephenson, Charles Whitney

Congregational Shut-Ins:

Home: Doris Bell, **Pleasant Springs Assisted Living:** Annah Brown, **Home:** Irene Duncan, **Villa Assisted Living:** Georgia Lide.

Some of the following has appeared in the bulletin a couple of times, but they bear repeating so as to keep them in our minds.

Church Happenings:

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING TONIGHT AFTER EVENING SERVICES. All men are encouraged to attend.

Bible Bowl News: Practice at 5pm today. This is for all young people from the 1st-12th grades.

Boles Home Christmas Present Project:

All gifts need to be brought to the foyer by TODAY, Sunday, December 13. If you wish to give monetary donations, please see Stephanie Sparks.

Youth Group Project:

The youth will gather in the fellowship hall to wrap the Boles Home Christmas gifts for the Boles Home TODAY, December 13 follow morning worship. (Pizza will be provided :-)

Men and Boys: Young Men's Training Seminar Saturday, January 02, 2010 Mount Vernon church of Christ. Theme: "The Privilege of Service and Worship" This is a great teaching/training opportunity. If you want to train to lead and serve better—this seminar is for you. Kris Groda will speak on "The Privilege of Service and Worship."

Great Smoky Mountain Marriage Retreat February 17-20, 2010 Pigeon Forge Holiday Inn Conference Center - Pigeon Forge, TN **Theme:** Joy in the Journey—Celebrating God's Gift of Matrimony. For more information, please call, 256.435.9356.

Holiday Open House: Saturday, December 19 from 11AM-2PM at the Groda's at 315 CR 1520.

"FILL THE FOYER" Food Drive: Thank you for all the donations! God is good and so are you! Your contributions are appreciated.

PLEASANT JAMBOREE (uptown) is having a great show planned for Saturday, December 19, with the theme being Christmas songs. Wouldn't it be nice if we, as a group, would go check this out? We just might have lots of fun. You would have to pay your own way.

HEALTH UPDATES:

Billye Campbell is about the same, occasionally is able to come to church with Gene.

Julia Terrell is adjusting quite well to being at home. Feel free to call and ask about a home visit!

Wayne Pickrel is feeling a little better, but is still weak.

THANK YOU..."Many thanks to all my brothers and sisters in Christ who have prayed for me during the past few weeks. I am now feeling much better and with my doctors changing my prescriptions (no fainting spells in the last few days) I hope to feel better yet. And the surgery I had is healing quite nicely."

In Christian Love,
Rhodney Freeman

Thanks for returning the office copy of the Photo Directory.

Birthdays in the month of December

Melvin Norfleet—12/02
Clint Duncan—12/05
Mary Glover— 12/06
Charles Neal—12/09
Cody Sparks— 12/11
Josephine Cooper—12/17
Julia Terrell— 12/17
Lena Groda—12/19
Judy Freeman— 12/20
Karen Fox—12/21
Carolyn Sargent—12/24
Cade Armstrong—12/28
Alice Freeman— 12/29
Jo Ann Miller—12/29