Four children, ages 4-11 and related to one another, were playing on a frozen pond last Sunday, January 9, in a suburb of Denver, Colorado, when suddenly three of them fell through the ice. Thankfully, a 23-year-old neighbor, Dusti Talavera, saw it happen from her window. She sprang into action. “Before I even realized it, I was out there in the middle of the pond pulling two kids out,” she later said during a press conference. “And that’s when I fell in.”

Talavera was able to pull a 4-year-old girl and an 11-year-old boy out of the icy pond, but having fallen into the pond herself, she struggled to get a 6-year-old girl out of the water. About that time, the little girl’s 16-year-old male cousin threw a rope to them and was able to pull Talavera and the little girl to safety.

At one point the little 6-year-old girl was unconscious and had no pulse, but Arapahoe County sheriff’s deputies and South Metro Fire Rescue (SMFR) officials performed CPR on her and rushed her to the hospital. She is now in good health and reunited with her family.

When discussing the details of the rescue with sheriff’s deputies, Talavera told them she “wasn’t concerned for her safety because they were babies and they needed help.”

When we were drowning in sin, God saw our need and sent His Son to rescue us. In order to save us from sin, Jesus had to die on the cross to pay the price for our redemption (Ephesians 1:7).

James Rowe described what the Savior did for him and for us in the words of a beloved song, "Love Lifted Me:

I was sinking deep in sin, far from the peaceful shore,
Very deeply stained within, sinking to rise no more,
But the Master of the sea heard my despairing cry,
From the waters lifted me, now safe am I.

Love lifted me! Love lifted me!
When nothing else could help,
Love lifted me!

Rowe wrote this song in the early 1900s, but his lyrics remind us that the Savior’s offer of salvation is still available:

Souls in danger, look above, Jesus completely saves;
He will lift you by His love Out of the angry waves.

God will lift from the angry waves of sin and give eternal life to those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9).

Struggling soul, look to Jesus and accept His offer of salvation on His terms. Then joyously join in singing the refrain, “Love lifted me … now safe am I!”

-- David A. Sargent

PRAYER REQUEST (for Shirley Vines, friend of Matt PRESLEY, who is a member at the Riverchase congregation in Birmingham. She suffered a heart attack and underwent open-heart surgery this past Thursday at the Shelby County hospital. Please pray for her and her family.

PRAYER REQUEST (for Sandy Shell. She fell on Christmas Eve morning and broke her right knee cap. She is now in a rehab center for recovery. Please pray for Sandy.

PRAYER REQUEST (for Christina Wilson, Betty Cox's daughter, was released from the hospital after being treated for pneumonia. She is doing well. Let’s thank God.

PRAYER REQUEST (for Dawn Harden, Joey Adams' mother, fell Monday night at her residence and suffered some injuries to her face. Let’s pray for Ms. Dawn!

PRAYER REQUEST (for Dan Buckley who is in ICU suffering with pneumonia and is back on the ventilator through his trach. Please pray for Dan & Peggy.

PRAYER REQUEST (for Ryan James who is suffering with some health issues and test are being done. He has received some good news, but prayers are still needed for additional results. Please pray for Ryan and his family.


SHUT-INS – Barbara Raleigh, Pat Parenteau, Cecil Wiggins, Hurley Crews, Betty Wheeler

BLOOD DRIVE on Wednesday, January 19th in the fellowship hall at Creekwood 4 to 8 p.m. Please sign up at the welcome center. See Greg Moorer for more information.

MOBILE CHRISTIAN: Winter Open House is scheduled for Sunday, January 23rd from 1:30-3:30 p.m. Enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year is now open. For more information 251-661-1613.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: College, single & married with no children: fellowship gathering on Saturday, January 29th at 6 p.m. at Glen and Holly Hall’s home. More information will follow soon.

LADIES EVENT: Saturday, February 5th 10 am to 12 noon in the fellowship hall at Creekwood. We will be making door signs with Creatively We Duett. The cost is $30.00 and is due on January 26th. A sign-up sheet is at the Welcome Center. Please give your money to Rachel Lunsford and see her if you need additional information.

BABY SHOWER for Raven Brewer on February 13th 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall at Creekwood. It’s a boy and she is registered at Target.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jessica Smith who received her Master of Arts degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from Amridge University. We are so happy for you!

DEAR CHURCH MEMBERS, you are my hero! We received your generous donation of $400. I can’t tell you how much I appreciate your support of our lifesaving work to help thousands of Mobile’s homeless dogs and cats this year. You have made a real difference in the lives of the animals we serve. Because of you, thousands of dogs and cats have a better life today! Church members thank you once again for your donation. It means the world to us – and to them. You are our hero! With gratitude, Lilian Wetzel, Mobile SPCA

Oh, Remember, Dear Children Josh Blackmore

It is important to remember, to keep in one’s mind the lessons learned, and memories of things gone by. Precedence is set and examples are given for us to guide us in a better way and better practices. In that same way, the writer of Proverbs would have us remember and teach future generations. “I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not conceal them from their children but tell the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and His strength and His wondrous works that He has done: For He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers that they should teach them to their children, that the generation to come might know, even the children yet to be born, that they may arise and tell them to their children, that they should put their confidence in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments, and not be like their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that did not prepare its heart and whose spirit was not faithful to God” (Psalm 78:1-8). It is in this Psalm that the intent of the Shema is outlined in further detail. “Now this is the commandment, the statutes and the judgments which the LORD your God has commanded me to teach you, that you might do them in the land where you are going over to possess it, so that you and your son and your grandson might fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged” (Deut. 6:1-2).

Both passages place an emphasis on teaching future generations so that they do not repeat the same wrongs. We have been given that same information to pass down to future generations that they too would learn to fear God and keep His commandments. It is imperative that we teach those things. I would ask you this question though. How much of your faith does your child know? Have you told your children of the time you prayed to God earnestly for something and He answered your prayer? Have you told them of the time where a Biblical principle was applied in your life, and you saw the outcome? Have you told them of the changes you made in your life because of God and His mercy? I challenge you to make faith real for your children by sharing yours with them. It is one thing to read about people that lived thousands of years ago. It’s quite another for them to see your faith now.

Moses warned the people to do the commands in the land where they were going “so that” future generations would fear and obey the commandments of God. If we aren’t obedient to God’s word, we cannot expect future generations to be.

SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR JANUARY 17 TO 23

Matthew 4:11-12
Mark 1:12-13
James 1:12-15
Ephesians 6:10-19
1 John 2:16

Please Remember Those Listed Below In Your Prayers.

And With Other Expressions Of Love

(Cards, Phone Calls, Visits)

OUR COUNTRY & THOSE SERVING: Chris Campbell (Japan), Nick Marcot - Air Force, Dylan Jones - Coast Guard, Greg O’Connell - Coast Guard, Lt. James Chapman III (Kuwait), Harry Lehman - Coast Guard, Mitchell Englund - Marine Reserves, Dylan Butler - Navy, Jacob Jones-Navy (Charlotte, NC)

EXPECTING MOTHERS: Peyton McLean, January (boy) Ashleigh Bowman, January (girl) Meghan (Hardy) Dean February (girl) Raven Brewer March (boy)

OUR MISSIONARIES: Jaya Paul (India), Michael Fordjour (Ghana)

PRAYER REQUEST (for Mackenzie Hall who is suffering with covid and having some difficulty with the symptoms. Please pray for Mackenzie and her family.

PRAYER REQUEST (for Skylar Raley who had tubes placed in her ears this past Thursday. The procedure went well. Please pray for Skylar and her family.

PRAYER REQUEST (for Lester Sellers who is in Springfield Hospital with Covid. He has pneumonia but is improving. Please pray for Lester and his family.

PRAYER REQUEST (for Sue Hawkins, Wyatt Pauline, Glenn Sargent, Omir Ogleby, Ashley Simpson, (possibly Luke and Nolan Simpson) Will Phillips, and Nelly Edlemon who have Covid but are improving daily. Please pray for each of these.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY is extended to Angie Goodreault and her family in the loss of her sister, Janet Brackin (59-years-old). Angie and her husband, Philip, obeyed the Gospel last year. Let’s pray for this family.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Jeremy Brownlee, who passed away due to an infection in his brain. He leaves behind a wife, two small children, and another baby yet to be born. Jeremy graduated from MJC and one of their children is a current student there. Please pray for the Brownlee family. The funeral services were held this past Saturday.

PRAYER REQUEST (for Rick Gray, Bob & Alona Gobble’s son-in-law and Penny Davis brother-in-law, came through his surgery. He will likely stay in the hospital for a few days. Let’s continue our prayers for Rick and his family.