



The Ninth Day of August

It was the ninth day of August. My Dad could not remember the exact year, only that it was before 1953 – the year that he graduated from high school. But the day and the month have been etched in his memory for a long time. Dad recounted the events of that difficult day to the Wednesday morning Bible class yesterday, which was also his 89th birthday.

Dad’s Dad was a cotton farmer in West Texas. For those familiar with the dry climate of West Texas, growing anything on a farm out there can be challenging. Farming was and is a difficult way of life. My Dad said that his father would borrow money every year to make it through the growing season. Then when the cotton was harvested, ginned, and sold, he would be able to pay his debts. The family’s financial well-being was dependent upon the cotton crop.

That’s what made the ninth day of August of that particular year so terribly memorable. It was the day a hailstorm came through the area. It completely destroyed my Dad’s family’s cotton crop. No crop, no harvest. No harvest, no money. Debts and the support of a family did not cease.

So how did they make it through this difficult time? Dad explained that his Dad and Mom went daily to a nearby farm that was not affected by the hailstorm and picked cotton. Dad said that when he and his siblings got home from school, they would join their parents in picking cotton until the sun went down. The pay they received for picking cotton sustained them during those difficult days.

I don’t remember ever hearing this account from my Dad before yesterday. I’m glad he shared it with us. It informs me more about my Dad, his parents, and his siblings. Life experiences help shape our identity; they also reveal our mettle.* My grandparents (Frank & Allie Sargent; I called them Papaw and Mamaw), my Dad (Glenn Sargent), and his siblings (Jean and Jimmy) did what needed to be done. That’s real “mettle” – the kind that endures the most difficult of days – accompanied by love for one another and a deep faith in God. That’s the kind of “mettle” that I want to be found in me. How about you?

But no amount of “mettle” can save us from our sins. Our sins separate us from God (Isaiah 59:1-2) and place us on the path to destruction (Matthew 7:13-14). In our sins, we are lost and doomed.

But then God did for us what we could not do for ourselves. He sent His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins (John 3:16). Jesus, demonstrating the greatest “mettle,” willingly gave His life for us so that we can be saved (John 10:17-18).

God will save us and give us eternal life if we will place our **faith** and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from our sins in **repentance** (Acts 17:30-31), **confess** Him before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are **baptized** (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to cleanse us from sin as we continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9).

It will require some “mettle” in us to continue to follow Jesus through the trials of this life, but knowing that God has provided our salvation in Jesus gives us the encouragement to keep on living for Him. The ultimate harvest is yet to come.

-- David A. Sargent

* “Mettle” is defined as “vigor of strength and temperament” and “staying quality, stamina” according to Merriam-Webster.

** P.S. Happy birthday, Dad! Thank you for who you are, from whom and from whence you’ve come, and for teaching me and countless others a lot about our Heavenly Father, through your words and your life.

Creekwood Church of Christ

“Conservative in Theology • Liberal in Love • Progressive in Ministry”



Minister	Associate Minister	Youth Minister	Family Enrichment Minister	Missionary (India)	Missionary (Ghana)
David A. Sargent	Tucker Presley	N/A	Ricky Butts	Jaya Paul	Michael Fordjour
• ELDERS •					
Ricky Butts	Michael Eddlemon	Greg Hall		Chris Presley	Glenn Sargent
• DEACONS •					
Joey Adams		Lyndell Farmer		Terry Livingston	
Jonathan Brooks		Glen Hall		Sammie Morris	
Bruce Englund		Scott Hardy		John Sims	
• SERVICES •					
Sunday	Morning Worship	9:00 AM	Morning Bible Class	10:15 AM	Evening Worship
Wednesday	Morning Bible Study	10:00 AM	Evening Bible Study	6:30 PM	6:00 PM

January 28, 2024

WELCOME TO CREEKWOOD CHURCH OF CHRIST

We would like to welcome all our visitors to Creekwood! Please sign the guest register in the foyer. We also invite you to stay for our Bible classes immediately following morning worship services.

TODAY’S MESSAGES:

AM – “Don’t Be a Reservoir!”

PM – “It’s Good for Us to Be Here”

Listening Devices for the Auditorium are available in the Control Room.
For information regarding on-line contribution, please visit creekwoodcc.org/contribution

1901 Schillinger Road S, Mobile, AL 36695 • (251) 633-2931 • (251) 633-3037 • Fax (251) 633-2936

Web site: www.creekwoodcc.org • E-mail: creekwoodchurchofchrist@comcast.net

Know Your Bible on the WHBR station on Mediacom channel 13/Comcast channel 7; Sundays at 6:00 PM CT.
Getting To Know Your Bible on Sunday on DirecTV-Uplift Channel 379 10:30 a.m. & Dish-Folk TV Channel 218 8:30 a.m.
Both of these broadcasts are co-sponsored by the Creekwood Church of Christ.

Please remember those listed below in your prayers and with other expressions of love (Cards, Phone Calls, Visits)

OUR COUNTRY & THOSE SERVING: Chris Campbell - Navy (Italy), Nick Marcet – (Air Force), Lt. James Chapman III (Kuwait), Harry Lehman – (Coast Guard), Mitchell Englund – (Marine Reserves), Dylan Butler – (Navy), Jacob Jones - Navy (Charleston, SC), Pam Bradshaw - (Air Force), Charley and Neecy Burch – (National Guard), Kelly Leverett – (Army)

EXPECTING MOTHERS: Hannah (Presley) Newcomb (???), Britney Mitchell (boy)

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR UKRAINE & THE WAR IN ISRAEL!

PRAYER REQUEST for Sheila Hudson. Sheila continues to recover in the LTAC Unit. She is very alert but still has the trach. Visitors are allowed from 11:00 AM to 8:30 PM. Let's continue to pray fervently for Sheila and Fred.

PRAYER REQUEST for Makenzie Hall has been through an ordeal with no definitive answers yet. She has returned home from Children's Hospital in Birmingham. They are consulting with other doctors. She continues to suffer a lot of pain. Let's continue to pray for Makenzie and her family!

PRAYER REQUEST for Betty Nichols who is in Providence Hospital, Room 904, receiving medical care after suffering a difficult episode. Please pray for Betty, Lisa, and all of the family.

PRAYER REQUEST for Rowena Leekley, who has been diagnosed with cancer. The oncologist says the spots are small but will require surgery. The doctor says it is curable! Please pray for Rowena and Phil.

PRAYER REQUEST for Derek Shelburne, nephew of Terry Shelburne. He is out of the hospital and doing much better.

PRAYER REQUEST for Briana Burkett, daughter of Darrell and Penny Davis. She is doing better after a bout with colitis. Please pray for Briana and her family.

PRAYER REQUEST for Taylor Cowan, Jennifer Yost's daughter, in the loss of her baby. Please pray for Taylor, Jennifer and all the family.

PRAYERS FOR THE FETNER FAMILY in the adoption process regarding their precious children. Please pray all things will go well for the Fetner family.

MEMBERS: Jacquelyn & Norman Newberry, Omer Oglesby, Ryan James, Sara Sargent, Bernice Fables, Dawn Sims, Kitty Morris, Shirley & Betty Gunnells, Esther Boulanger, Nancy White, John & Sharon Bogle, Valary Smith, Tom Busby, Patti Mitchell, Kathy Stacy, Ken Grisham, Richard McDonald, Pat Parenteau, Martha & Bill Franks, and Jeannie Aldred

FAMILY & FRIENDS OF MEMBERS: Julie Todd (friend of Brook Oglesby Grice); Diane Glover, Logan Moore, Kruz Kohrumel (1st grader at Mobile Christian), Trish Patterson, friend of Sandy Hall, Rick Gray, Penny Davis's brother, Carolyn Parham, cousin of Susan Thomas, along with Tara (received an all clear from her biopsies Callaway, John & Betty King Fuller, Daniel Mitchell Brabham, the brother of Stephanie Hulon, , Lisa & Albert Andrews, sister and brother in law of Sheila Marcet, A.J. Brown, nephew of Fran & Wayene Buzbee, Barbara Bradford, grandmother of Erin Cunningham, Larry Tart, brother of Jerrol Sawrey, Betty Thompson, Donna Allsup's mother, Betsy McCaskill, friend of Larry Duncan; Nelda Carr, former member; Dawson Moorer, former member, Diana Pierce, Shawn Cobb's mother; Vic Johnson, friend of John Bogle; Bennett Gibson, member living in Omak, Washington; Donna Lucas; Sally Tindell (sibling of Nancy Moorer); Boots Carson (mother of Gina Englund and Ka Kinman); Alona Gobble (Penny Davis' mother); Kellen Franks, (grandson of Bill & Martha Franks); Don White, brother of Celeste Chandler; George Smith, (friend of John Bogle)

SHUT-INS – Martha Irvin, Esther Boulanger, Barbara Roley, Hurley Crews, Betty Wheeler, Pat Parenteau

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR MEALS ON WHEELS RECIPIENTS. Many are struggling with health issues. Some of which are: Betty Arnold

NURSING HOME DEVOTIONAL – We host a devotional on Sunday afternoons at Mobile Nursing & Rehab at 2:30 p.m. Please come and visit with the residents, sing a few songs, and have a brief Bible study.

AS WAS ANNOUNCED, Dawn will be retiring as church secretary. We are thankful for Dawn's dedication, her willingness to go the second mile, and her hard work. We are accepting applications for the position of church secretary. If you have interest in serving in this capacity, please see one of the elders and submit a resume'. We will be glad to answer any questions you may have about the duties of the secretary.

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT will be held on February 18-21 at 6:00 p.m. Sunday night and 6:30 p.m. Monday – Wednesday night at Azalea City Church of Christ. The theme for the Series is: "Behold Our God." More information will follow soon.

COUPLES BRIDAL SHOWER for Lauren Williamson and Tate Bivens on Sunday, February 25th in the Creekwood fellowship hall at 4:00 p.m. They are registered at Amazon, Target and <https://www.zola.com/wedding/becomingthebivens>.

THANK YOU. Dear Church family, thank you for the comfort and joy shared with our family (Lester [Sellers] & Teresa) during the meal train as they recovered. It felt like family. We are grateful for the loving hands that prepared each meal and the visits that provided much more than a meal – the fellowship with familiar faces, encouragement, and prayers. Thank you all so very much!
In Christian love,
Derek & Glenda Burke

From the Family Room

Communication – The Key to Intimacy in Marriage

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver. -- Ecclesiastes 25:11

Is this title true? What does it really mean? It has been said that the effective conveying of thoughts, opinions, or information between husband and wife has many benefits. This provides a deep understanding of each other and a means of access to a close, familiar relationship. While that statement would not sell many romantic greeting cards, it does state a valuable lesson regarding communication for married couples.

The problem is we live in a hurried, hard talking, and sarcastic culture. How can we avoid speaking harsh, critical, and destructive messages that damage intimacy in our marriages? How can we develop the ability to communicate messages of affection, admiration, edification, and encouragement to our spouse?

- Genuinely love, honor, respect, and trust your spouse.
- Make proper communication a goal and work at it.
- Never belittle your spouse, especially in front of friends. Discuss mistakes or shortcomings in a constructive manner.
- Spend twice as much time listening as you do talking. “. . . everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to become angry” -- James 1:19
- Choose your time to discuss important matters when both of you can sit down with plenty of time to finish the discussion without distractions.

- Understand that men and women often communicate in different ways. Minimize those differences.
- Avoid behaviors that block communication. These include sarcasm, shadow talk, intimidation, and over generalization.
- Communication involves more than words. Our words should match our tone, gestures, and body language.

May we be conscious of what we say and how we say it. This includes communication with our spouse, our children, and in our church family. It would be great to go out of our way to leave an encouraging note, a love note for our spouse like we did as kids in school, an encouraging message to our children when they are facing a big event in their life, or a card, text, or a phone call to someone at church who is dealing with a stressful occasion.

Make it your goal this week to communicate your love for someone. Maybe numerous someone's.

Ricky Butts
Family Minister