



The Not-So-Happy Meal

Our oldest daughter, Britney, needed to see a doctor, so Clint, our son-in-law, accompanied her. My wife and I had the pleasure of taking care of our grandchildren, Lincoln (age 6) and Landyn (age 3), while their parents went to see the doctor.

After we watched Lincoln during his t-ball practice, I was instructed to go by McDonald’s to get Lincoln and Landyn something to eat. Lincoln wanted a chicken nuggets meal and Landyn wanted a hamburger Happy Meal. I have an app for such a purpose, so I ordered ahead.

I arrived at the McDonald’s and went through the drive-thru. I was given the drinks in a tray and a bag filled with food. I started driving home and then I wondered if I had received everything that I ordered. Then I realized, “They didn’t give me a Happy Meal!” So, I turned around, went back to McDonald’s, and pulled up at the drive-thru window. The employee handed me the missing Happy Meal, and I started my journey home again.

Then I wondered, “Did they give me the chicken nuggets?” I felt in the bag and didn’t feel a box; instead, I felt a bag. I opened the bag with one hand and felt a sandwich. It was a spicy chicken sandwich that I had not ordered. No chicken nuggets! I chose not to go back again to that McDonald’s; I stopped at another McDonald’s on the way home to get the chicken nuggets.

Finally, I made it home where I found some hungry grandchildren. We gave them the food that they had wanted. I was relieved... for a little bit.

Landyn came to me. “Bug (my grandpa name), we have a problem! There are pickles and ketchup on my hamburger!” “Oh,” I replied. “You must like your hamburgers plain. I am so sorry, Landyn. That was my fault. I didn’t tell them to make the hamburger plain.” Patrice scraped the pickles and ketchup off the hamburger, but that wasn’t palatable to Landyn.

Landyn started rehearsing the blunder I had made to Tricee (Patrice’s grandma name) as we sat down to eat. But then she looked at me and said, “That’s okay, Bug. I love you and I forgive you.” Then she turned to her Tricee and said, “And Tricee, if you did what Bug did, I would love and forgive you, too.”

Tears came to my eyes – not only because of her forgiveness, but because of the powerful lesson this three-year-old was teaching me.

“I love you and I forgive you.”

Where did she learn to be forgiving? I think it’s the influence of her godly parents and others who are teaching her about God and how He loves us and forgives us.

God is a loving and forgiving God. That is wonderful news because we **ALL** need His love and forgiveness, “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23).

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8). God loves us so much that He gave His Son Jesus to die on the cross for our sins so that we can be forgiven and receive the gift of eternal life (John 3:16).

God will forgive 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).

We’ve all messed up. But God says, “I love you and I forgive you.” He gave His Son to pay the price for our sins. Won’t **YOU** accept His offer of forgiveness and eternal life?

-- David A. Sargent

P.S. Thank you, Landyn, for forgiving Bug and teaching me a lesson that I will never forget. I promise that I will try to always remember to make sure your hamburger is plain in your Happy Meal. I love you.

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

March 3, 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 – “The Life Giver”

PM – “Truly Blessed”

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

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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) July, Haley Presley (??) September

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR UKRAINE & THE WAR IN ISRAEL!

PRAYER REQUEST for Marie Waters, aunt of Kristy Adams who underwent surgery at UAB. She is improving and they had Marie up walking. They hope to move her to a regular room soon. Please pray for Marie and her family.

CONGRATULATIONS to Kymee Miller upon the birth of Miller Rasheed Mohammed who was born Wednesday, February 28th weighing 7 lbs. 4 oz. The proud great grandparents are Omer and Janet Oglesby.

PRAYER REQUEST for Bill Franks who suffered a stroke and is in Springhill Hospital. He is improving. Please pray for Bill and Martha.

OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY is extended to the family of Shirley Gunnells. His funeral services were held this past Friday. Let's pray for Betty and the extended family.

PRAYER REQUEST for Sheila Hudson. has been moved to Rotary Rehab in Mobile Infirmary. Visitation times are 4:00 PM - 8:30 PM (Monday - Saturday) and 8:00 AM - 8:30 PM (on Sunday). Let's continue to pray for Sheila & Fred.

PRAYER REQUEST for Makenzie Hall. She came through the Venogram with findings of multiple compressions and blockages. They are meeting with doctors to discuss the next steps. Please pray for Makenzie, Holly, Glen, and the extended Hall family.

PRAYER REQUEST for Rowena Leekley, who underwent surgery for colon cancer. They are waiting for the pathology report. The doctor says it is curable! Please pray for Rowena and Phil.

MEMBERS: Betty Nichols, Bob Gobble, Ryan James, Sara Sargent, Bernice Fables, Dawn Sims, Kitty Morris, 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), Rick Gray, Penny Davis's brother, John & Betty King Fuller, Daniel Mitchell Brabham, the brother of Stephanie Hulon, , Lisa & Albert Andrews, sister and brother in law of Sheila Marcet, 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 Moorner, 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 Moorner); 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.

SPECIAL CONTRIBUTION – To assist families with the cost of attending the convention, there will be a special contribution on March 3rd (today) for the Lads to Leaders/Leaderettes program. Your support of our youth and their families is greatly appreciated. Please place Lads to Leaders on the for line of your check.

CONGREGATIONAL EVANGELISM TRAINING SEMINAR March 5-7 at the Central Church of Christ starting at 6:30 p.m. See the flyer at the welcome center.

ANNUAL JUBILEE DINNER AND AUCTION AT MOBILE CHRISTIAN on March 9th. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. The evening will include dinner, silent and live auctions, free childcare, all proceeds will go towards the next level campaign. Call 251-661-1613 to purchase tickets or for more information.

TODDLER BOY SHOWER for Hannah Raines on Sunday, March 10th in the fellowship hall at 4:00 p.m. She is registered at Amazon.com.

BRIDAL SHOWER for Caroline Bennett and Carson Presley on Sunday March 24th in the fellowship hall at 4:00 p.m. They are registered at Target, Dillard's, Amazon, and Williams Sonoma.

LADIES YOU ARE INVITED TO THE UNIVERSITY CHURCH OF CHRIST ANNUAL TEA on April 13th with registration starting at 8:15. A continental breakfast will be served and lunch at 11:00 a.m. The speaker is Susan Cagle "Walking by Faith" RSVP to Judy Loose at 251-344-2366.

Certainty and Uncertainty
"I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance." John 10:10

"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

And we know that God causes all things to work together for good for those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose Romans 8:28

For we live by faith, not by sight. 2 Corinthians 5:7

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or . . . No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:35, 37-39 *...in Him all things hold together.* Colossians 1:17

I worked many hours this past week reviewing monthly bank statements from 2005 to 2020 from my parents' estate. That was tedious and revealing work. I did not find any glitches but reviewing those monthly statements brought back some strong memories of many events that occurred during those 15 years. Some were happy and joyful - some sad and heart breaking. Some were planned – others were surprises. For some we were immediately thankful – for other events we were, and may still be, wondering "Why?" We lost several

people that were dear to our family because of death. There were several cherished people added to our family through birth and marriage. The uncertainty of the future in this life is just the way it is. Always has been. Always will be here on earth.

Life is sometimes like driving on the interstate in a heavy fog. Sometimes we just don't know what may be 50 feet in front of us. Driving in a dense fog like that is very tiring. Sometimes visibility is so limited we may have to pull off the road and stop our trip for a short period of time. As we look forward into the future of life, the fog of uncertainty obscures our vision. Living life and dealing with its uncertainties can create anxiety and wear us out. We must not let uncertainty of the future cause us to be frozen in the past or the present. We must not let uncertainty blind us to the facts of life that are certain.

We must focus on the certainties of life. There is a God. He loves us. He makes all events in the lives of His followers work together for our good. He gave us His son for our salvation and for our abundant life. Jesus loves us. Nothing can separate us from His love. In His love we overwhelmingly conquer the uncertainty of this life. In Christ all things hold together. As children of the King with these certainties before us at all times, we should live joyfully, peacefully, fearlessly and blessed amid the uncertainty that surrounds us in the world. I pray that we will focus on the certain facts of life and live boldly for the glory of God. I pray that we will let our lights shine so those around us who live in a dismal, foggy, uncertain world with weak or no faith will see the certain God.

The world is filled with uncertainty. Our life in Christ has clarity and certainty. Let us also remember the certainty of heaven and our reward waiting for us. One day we will live in the light of His love eternally. There will be no more tears. There will be no more fog. There will be no more uncertainty. May we focus on the certainty of God and live by faith and not by sight. Ricky Butts Family Minister