

view

February 20, 2005

This Week's Agenda

February 20, 2005

The Lord's Day

8:30AM & 10:15AM

Sermon: Dennis Wade/Jeff Herrin

5:00PM Sermon: Adam Cain

5:30PM: Classes for all ages from 18 months and up

Adult Classes

- Auditorium: David Carrozza, Various Topics.
- "Basics" Class (see Dennis Wade)
- Room 11-12: Young Adults, Topics - Randy Clark.

Wednesday

10:00AM Wednesday: OT History, at building.

7:30PM - Classes for all ages 18 months and up.

Adult Classes

- Auditorium: Dan Hamilton, Discipleship
- "Basics" Class (see Dennis Wade)
- Room 11-12: Young Adults, Topics - Randy Clark



Bible Reading This Week

Sunday - Leviticus 1-4; Proverbs 14:1-18

Monday - Reflection

Tuesday - Leviticus 5-8; Proverbs 14:19-35

Wednesday - Leviticus 9-11; Proverbs 15:1-17

Thursday - Leviticus 12-14; Proverbs 15:18-33

Friday - Leviticus 15-18; Proverbs 16:1-16

Saturday - Leviticus 19-21; Proverbs 16:17-33

Prayers...

Welcome Home Trey!

Trey Cain had returned safely from Iraq and is home for good.

Continue to pray for those still serving in Iraq: Philip Cain, Steve Reis (now in the Baghdad area), Titus Cain, Travis Dusenberry (Joanne Garner's grandson), Paul Hitchen.

Sickness, Injury, Continuing Health Problems

Stephen Daniels & Matthew Woolington are both suffering with pneumonia. Please pray for their speedy recovery.

Continue prayers for: Sherrill Colvin (recovering from recent shoulder surgery); Pat Brown (recent loss of husband Bill, who preached for the church in Indio); Kathy Wilson (Parkinson's disease); Jim Everett and family (terminal cancer); Jamie Cole, Kristen Sanderson's sister; Dave Fulton's mother, Monica (Monroe, WA); Tom Royston; Ken McClelland (cancer); Karen Gorden; Sharon Jones; Becky Woolpert; Margaret Everett (cancer); Phil Roberts (cancer); Laurie

Ann Reagan (cancer); Cheryl Wilson (cancer); Bill Fling (heart problems); Chris Hamilton (friend of Justin Ivie, cancer); Peggy Olsen (Cameron Carrozza's friend's mother).

Expectant Mothers

Kimmie Warshaw, Sally Deschler, Kristen Sanderson, Melissa Fields and Michelle Caisse.

Out of Town

David and Christie Posey are traveling to Monterey and Southern California. Matthew & C.J. Woolington are in Utah for a week.

New Member

Marie Curtin
Welcome Marie!

An Old Story Too Often Repeated

By Michael Vaughn

The story is an old one that I've heard many times, in some form or another. I had my own experience with it, and much like other people who told it to me, I am saddened when I think about it.

The story? A Christian man called on the phone. It seems he had attended services and Bible classes as a youth. His parents had taught him the Truth and made sure he was present whenever the church assembled. As a youth his tender heart was touched by the gospel and he obeyed it. He was eager to serve the Lord and grow in faith. But, sadly, soon that enthusiasm waned. As he grew older as a teen and then a young adult, the pleasures of this world enticed him and, as Demas had, he forsook the Lord because he developed a love for this present world (2 Tim. 4:10).

While away from the Lord, the man married and started a family. A son came along, a son the man loved and who was his pride and joy. A son upon whom he rained blessings and gifts. There was nothing he would not give or do for his son. Nothing, that is, except what his parents had done for him— "bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

The voice on the phone was breaking with emotion. The man paused, collected himself, and then continued with his story.

After his son had finished college and went out on his own, the man's mother, the son's grandmother, became ill and needed special care. She moved in with her son so he could attend to her needs. She, in spite of her infirmities, was determined to remain faithful to the Lord. She asked her son to take her to the services of the local church. He did. Worried about her well-being while there, he decided that instead of just taking her, he would go with her to make sure she would be all right. Surely, he thought, he could endure it for her sake.

He felt uncomfortable sitting there. Yes he had sat in pews many times but that had been long ago. He had not frequented a church building since before he was married. Yet, in a strange way, there was a familiarity and

of his elderly mother, answered the invitation and, with tears, penitently told the preacher how sorry he was for his years of neglect. Prayer was offered and he was restored to his Lord and Savior. His frail mother could not have been happier.

How wonderful he felt. "How great to get my life back on track," he thought. He sensed a peace that he had not experienced in years. After all the years of being away, he felt like he was home.

The man now attended services with his mother with glee. He avariciously read his Bible daily, and even began studying with his wife. Eventually, she was baptized and became a Christian. The man could not have been happier with all that had transpired.

The man also told his son

"And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

Ephesians 6:4

a feeling of belonging. At each service he grew more interested in what was going on, more comfortable with his surroundings but more uncomfortable with himself. He finally realized he needed to come back to the Lord. He, to the surprise and joy

about what had happened and how wonderful he felt to be serving the Lord, and invited the son to come to services. But the son would have nothing to do with it. He had his own life now. He had his own responsibilities, and said he had neither time or

an interest in such things. His father was heartbroken. He repeatedly tried to get his son interested in his spirituality, but it was to avail. The mother talked to her son, sharing her own joy of answering the call of the Gospel, but the son still wasn't interested. Finally, the son let his father and mother know very plainly that he did not want to discuss the matter again.

This is where the father called me. He thought that I might be able to talk to his son, as I was acquainted with the young man through my own son, and had always known him to be respectful. The man hoped I may be able to do what he could not, get his son to listen to his need Christ.

I am always happy for opportunities to relate the gospel to people but sometimes, I know that even before I talk to someone, my efforts will be, at least difficult, if not entirely futile. After patiently listening to this man relate his story and pour out his heart to me, I told the man I would contact his son and invite him into my home. I took the man's phone number so that I could call him back and tell him what had transpired with his son. But, sadly, I already knew what was probably going to happen.

The father was already so low I did not want to add to his sadness. Also, it seemed that I was, at least in his mind, his last hope and I did not want to dash what little hope he had left. But I knew that the years when his

son could have been easily touched by the gospel were past. They were the formative years when the son was under his father's control, a time when his father neglected to teach him the ways of the Lord and set a proper example before him. Yes, the gospel still has its power to convert but not in a heart that is hardened to it or in a person who sees no need for it.

I had a nice conversation with the young man, but it was to no avail. He was simply not interested in talking seriously about spiritual matters. When I talked to the father, he was appreciative of my efforts, but wasn't really surprised by my lack of success.

The father still loves his son very much, and continually prays that his son will see the need to obey Christ. At the same time, the man faces the reality that the chances of that happening grow slimmer, and sadly, he realizes he must take some blame over the lost opportunities he had to teach his son as a godly parent, as his own parents had taught him in his youth.

When parents neglect their duties as Christians, they are not only impacting their own lives, but also the lives of their children by not setting the example for them that the Lord wants them to. Rather, parents are to live up to their God-given duty and properly train their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, so that this sad story of a wasted opportunity will not be repeated.

Published by
The church of Christ

900 E. Natoma
PO Box 492
Folsom, CA 95630
916/608-4866

Elders

Randy Clark: 916/984-4788
Dan Hamilton: 916/984-9617
Kenneth Marrs: 916/851-9158
David Posey: 530/676-9514

Deacons

Brent Agee: 916/786-0436
Forrest Brown: 530/295-9230
David Byrd: 916/985-6564
Michael Caisse: 530/672-2902
Steve Dickey: 916/983-1071
Rich Ladd: 916/774-9048
David Main: 916/363-9580
Terry Raposa: 916/782-1140
Dane Scott: 916/631-7221
Russ Tarrant: 530/672-1748
Steve Thompson: 916/983-4170
Doug Wells: 530/672-1877

Evangelist/Editor

David Posey: 530/676-9514
david@folsomchurch.com

Services

Sunday Morning Assembly
8:30AM & 10:15AM
Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study
7:30 PM

Classes for all ages.
Private classes arranged at your convenience.

For more information,
visit our web site at:

www.folsomchurch.com

**I HAVE NO GREATER JOY THAN
TO HEAR THAT MY CHILDREN
ARE WALKING IN THE TRUTH.**



Emergency Phone Numbers

Author Unknown

When in sorrow...
call John 14.

When men fail you...
call Psalm 27.

If you want to be fruitful...
call John 15.

When you have sinned...
call Psalm 51.

When you worry...
call Matthew 6:19-34.

When you are in danger...
call Psalm 91.

When God seems far away...
call Psalm 139.

When your faith needs stirring...
call Hebrews 11.

When you are lonely and fearful...
call Psalm 23.

When you grow bitter and critical...
call I Corinthians 13.

For Paul's secret to happiness...
call Colossians 3:12-17.

For understanding of Christianity...
call II Corinthians 5:15-19.

When you feel down and out...
call Romans 8:31.

When you want peace and rest...
call Matthew 11:25-30.

When the world seems bigger than God...
call Psalm 90.

When you want Christian assurance...
call Romans 8:1-30.

When you leave home for labor or travel...
call Psalm 121.



When your prayers grow narrow or selfish...
call Psalm 67.

When you want courage for a task...
call Joshua 1.

For how to get along with fellow men...
call Romans 12.

When you think of investments and returns...
call Mark 10.

If you are depressed...
call Psalm 27.

If your pocketbook is empty...
call Psalm 37.

If you are losing confidence in people...
call I Corinthians 13.

If people seem unkind...
call John 15.

If discouraged about your work...
call Psalm 126.

If you are dealing with fear...
call Psalm 34:7.

If you need security...
call Psalm 121:3.

If you need assurance...
call Mark 8:35.

If you need reassurance...
call Psalm 145:18

Emergency numbers may be dialed directly by opening a Bible.

If you require further assistance, all lines to Heaven are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year! Please call now - The Operator is standing by!