

Let's Visit

A publication of the Center Church of Christ
110 Hurst Street Center, Texas 75935



Volume 7

Number 1

January 5, 2020

Planning to Fail?

We have closed the books on another year in the service of the Lord. 2019 is in the history books and 2020 is before us. What will we do in 2020? Will we go forward in the service of God or will we shrink back? Will we do great things for God or will we just go through the motions. Will we succeed as a congregation of God's people or will we fail?

It was said one time, "failure is the path of least persistence." Think about that statement. One of the first techniques used with rookie life insurance salesmen is the "100 man story". It relates how that out of any group of 100 men beginning their working career today, at age 65 only 3 will be considered financially successful. The "pitch" continues, that the other 97 die not plan to fail, but they failed to plan. You see, no one enjoys being unable to become what they plan, yet most of us must suffer because of our own failures.

A young man once started early in life to become a preacher. He had many advantages that most young men lacked. His mother was anxious to help him and provided every advantage necessary. He was sent to the best schools. Churches gave him many opportunities by inviting him to preach for them. He did great work for several years, but there came a time when it was not as easy as it had been. He lacked what it took to succeed when success did not come easy. Years went by and this young man grew older. As the years went by he worked less and less at his chosen vocation. He ceased to study and tried to coast along on information gained in former years. Because of a lack of persistence he found that he was not equipped to do the work of a preacher. No more unhappy, dissatisfied person ever walked on the earth.

One day a lady made up her mind to become a Bible School teacher. The idea was glamorous to her at first. She had visions of what she could become in this service. For a time she worked very diligently. The knowledge she had was used to great advantage, but as the months passed this knowledge was all used up. She had not worked and studied to be prepared to go on with her work. She could have easily become a great teacher but she gave up without half trying. Now her life is miserable because of unnecessary failure.

A man one time decided to obey the gospel and live the Christian life. There was great joy in his heart the day he took the right turn in the road of life. He plunged into the Lord's work with a zeal that would put to shame many who had been serving for years. He was thrilled because of the life he had chosen. Soon, however, he began to find that not all people were willing to listen. He learned that it took great effort to remain faithful. The call of his former life became louder and louder. He allowed his zeal to die a little at a time until it was all gone. Today he is back in the world, miserable, because he knows he is wrong, and perhaps unaware that a little persistence would have saved him.

(Continued on page 2)

In Search Of The Lord's Way



Tune in to this Television Ministry
KSLA 12 – Shreveport -7:30 a.m. Sunday
DISH channel 239-6:00 a.m. Sunday
DIRECT TV channel 307 -6:00 a.m. Sunday

Gathered Here and There



Today's Sermon

A new Year A new Decade The Same Gospel

We are beginning a new year of Service to the Lord!

FOR THE PANTRY....

Dried Beans/Peas

"Planning To Fail" – continued from page 1

Jesus once taught His disciples a lesson by telling them of the widow who continued to seek help from a certain person until she received the help. He said this should be our attitude in making our petitions to God. He also taught us that this should be our attitude in our work for God.

The individual who succeeds in any work refused to entertain any idea of failure. He recognizes that some days will not be as smooth as others. He does not expect them to be. In our work for the Lord we have the assurance of knowing that He will not allow us to fail if we will continue to serve Him. Working for Him, we are assured of victory when we do our best and need not entertain any thought of losing. Paul said, "our labor is not in vain in the Lord".

tp

Bounty Hunting

In the Old West, according to legend, there were numerous "bounty hunters". These motley characters, while not lawmen in an official sense, made their living by tracking down fugitives for the price on their heads.

Well, the other day, I was thinking, my mind was rambling, and I thought, "What would happen if we placed a bounty on the head of every lost sinner? How would Christians react to their desperate plight then?" I mean, let's face it, we have not actually turned the world upside down (we haven't even turned Center upside down) nor have we caused much tremor in a quest for souls.

Great! Let's put a bounty on their heads. We will offer \$25.00 for every visitor brought to Bible Study and Worship. We will offer \$50.00 for every home Bible Study arranged with a friend, and we will pay \$250.00 for every baptism. You think that sounds a little callous? Does it sound a little carnal? Maybe so. But, think of the attendance records we would set. I know, you are wondering how I could suggest such a thing.

Okay, I'm sorry. We won't put a bounty on souls. We will just seek and save them because we love them and we love the Lord. When do we want to start?

Carthage, Texas bulletin, 9/13/73, copied and adapted

On The Lighter Side.....



The preacher's sermon is going a bit long again today isn't it!

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***Cooperation will solve many problems.
Even freckles would be a nice coat of tan
if they would ever get together.***

Miscellaneous



Those To Remember In Prayer

Our Church family to remember in prayer

LaJuan Baugh, Dale Fincher, Martha Jean Golden, Rodney Golden, Sonya Golden, Sue Hagler, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Ted Holt, Dora Livingston, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Betty Permenter, Mike Permenter, Janice Willaims, Melvin Williams, Betty Willis, Alda Yarbrough.

Our "extended family" to remember in prayer:

Joe Barr (Melvin Williams' son) **Tim Bartlett** (friend of Betty Miller) **Leyton Bell** (Ryan Perkins' grandfather) **Edward Lee Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's Brother) **Leslie Bradshaw** (friend of Tim & Norma Perkins) **Pauline Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's sister-in-law), **Bethany Bridges** (Debra Pate's friend), **Jennifer Britt** (friend of Thelma Hinton) **Kaden Butler** (Debra Pate's great grandson) **Marcus Cruz Cranford** (Sue Hagler's-great-great grandson) **Ronnie Emanis** (Sue Hagler's nephew) **Mary Fleming** (Mike O'Brien's aunt) **Hugh Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother) **Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's sister-in law) **Mike Fults**, **Jonica Glaze** (student from Tenaha injured in serious car accident) **Virginia Goodrum** (Debra Pate's sister-in-law) **Buddy Hancock** (Martha Jean Golden's brother) **Allison Harbison**, **George Holder**, **Larry Landry** (Glenna Noles Brother) **Vickie Lee** (friend of Sue Hagler) **Juston Lout** (Patricia Lout's son) **Shirley Lout** (Mike Lout's mother) **Glynn McCleod** (brother-in-law to LaJuan Baugh, Sherry Burgay and Trish Lout) **Mitchell McLeod** (LaJuan Baugh, Sheri Burgay, Trish Lout's nephew), **Elsie Lee McDaniel** (Alice Hall's sister-in law) **George McNatt** (Dale Findher's neighbor) **Roger Scott** (LaJuan Baugh's son-in-law) **Robert Shull** (friend of Sue Hagler) **Winston Smith** (Thelma Hinton's brother) **Margie Weaver** (friend of Debra Pate) **David Williams** (Melvin Williams son)

Those being treated for cancer:

Guadalupe Beltran (friend of Sue Hagler), **Harold Dawkins** (friend of Thelma Hinton) **David Greer** (son of Gene Greer, former minister here) **Carla Holt** (Ted and Joyce Holt's daughter-in-law) **Dora Livingston**, **Connie Mettauer**, **Tem Morrison**, **Teresa Richard** (Friend of Norma Perkins) **Bobbie Smiley**, **Ronnie Stanfield** (friend of Tim & Norma Perkins) **Tina Vaughn** (Sue Hagler's daughter) **Jo Windham** (Betty Miller's sister-in-law)

Also remember **Leland Bradshaw**, **Amanda Bradshaw** and **Andrew Bradshaw** (Gene and Martha's son and granddaughter and grandson) in Iraq.

SAVE THE DATE!
April 24th - 26th 2020
Annual Area-Wide Singing & Gospel Meeting

Love Is Beautiful

Love is the most beautiful thing in all the world. Love lives not for itself, but always for others. It must find its deepest expression in sacrificial living. For "love that is hoarded, moulds at last." It must be kept pure and strong and active to make human live worthwhile.

The sacredness of love must never be forgotten. Life without love becomes lonely and aimless. But life with love takes on new meaning. And only as we have a true understanding of God's love for man will we be able to appreciate the importance of love in the home. The foundation of the home is based on religion and love.

It becomes a religious obligation that we shall keep the altar fires of love burning brightly. When we are tempted to let the fire die, let us remember these words: "Being true means doing nothing that would bring grief and heartaches to the other party. It means being faithful to the other person's wishes and expectancy. It means being loyal to your highest ideals of what a home should be and can be when you are united."

Love makes faithfulness a pleasure.

-Just a Moment

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A true love for humanity will save us from becoming pessimists.

The size of your troubles usually depends on Whether they are coming or going.



Across The Preacher's Desk

I once read where someone said the most dangerous thing in the world is to try to leap over a chasm in two jumps. That ranks right up there with the story of the young boy who cut his puppy's tail off an inch at the time so it wouldn't hurt so badly by cutting the entire tail off all at once. Both of those little stories illustrate the tragic mistake many people make about Jesus.

Living for Jesus is not a partial thing nor is it a sometime thing. Living for the Lord is an all or nothing commitment. As we have said on many occasions, if Jesus is not Lord of all of your life, He is not Lord at all in your life. Attempting to live for Jesus without a total commitment is like trying to leap a chasm in two jumps. You leave one bank and miss the other. Here is the way Jesus put it. "He that is not for me is against me", (Matthew 12:30) Jesus Christ will not share a divided heart. We must give him our all, our life, or talents, our service.

The second story shows us another side of commitment to Jesus. You see, commitment to one thing means forsaking something else. We cannot hold on to the Lord and the world. Often, folks try and give up the world like that little boy cut off the puppy's tail, a little at a time. The result is the same, pain is multiplied.

We must commit every part of our lives to Jesus and give up the baubles of the world in cleaving to the Lord. Let's resolve in 2020 that we will live for Jesus, wholeheartedly and unreservedly.

it's something to think about. . . .tbp

**Great Churches are built with
Commitment!**