



# LET'S VISIT

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## IS JESUS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

I remember reading a play once where the leading character explains that he never crosses a bridge at night because he is afraid someone might jump into the water and he would be confronted with the decision as to whether or not he should become involved by attempting a rescue. The rear of responsibility has kept numerous people in the past and keeps many folks today from doing a lot of things they would like in this life. Fear of commitment and fear of the unknown has kept people from accepting promotions on the job and has kept people from entering into meaningful relationships. It has also kept countless souls from serving the Lord. Flight from responsibility is in reality an escape into the realm of selfishness where life is lived without thought of anyone else.

One of the great needs of the church of the 21<sup>st</sup> century is a renewed commitment. A renewed sense that the Church is not all about me. It is not about my felt needs and it is not about what pleases me. It is about what God wants and what pleases God. When we mention a renewed commitment, what are we talking about? The very word commitments is defined as the act of pledging oneself. As concerned Christian men and women, we need to pledge ourselves and our lives wholly to the Lord and to His service. We need to pledge ourselves to individually do our part, carry our share of the load and do everything in our power to build up the church. To support the church and to make the church a vital and viable institution for good in our community. You see, dedicated and committed people grow local churches. When Paul wrote to the church at Rome in Romans 12:1, he penned these words, *"I beseech you therefore, brethren by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy,*

*acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service."*

Paul here emphasizes the need for our lives to be totally committed, totally devoted to the Lord and to His service. How committed are we – really? How important is the Lord to us? How important is the Church to us?

Jesus calls on us in the Sermon on the Mount to be the light of the world. To shine forth his love to a world that is dark and lost in sin. Jesus also calls on us to be the salt of the earth. Salt both seasons and it preserves. As God's people, we are to provide the seasoning for life to those around us and we are to be the preserving force for good.

However, we cannot be the light of the world and the salt of the earth with a half-hearted commitment. We must realize, to use a time worn old cliché, our life may be the only Bible our neighbor ever reads. When our friends, neighbors and family members look at our life, what do they see? Do we show our friends and loved ones, those we are trying to lead to Christ that the Lord and the Church are important in our lives? When you are tempted to forsake the assembly, when your commitment to the church is not what it should be, remember that Jesus shed His blood to purchase the Church. How much value to you place on the church?"

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### 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



## Hearts That Have Grown Hard

**For The Pantry. . .**  
**September 3 – Spam**

### *As I Mature. . .*

Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself I am growing older, and I will some day be old.

Keep me from getting talkative, and particularly from the habit of thinking I must say something on every subject on every occasion.

Release me from craving to try to straighten out everybody's affairs.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details – give me wings to get to the point.

Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally it is possible that I may be mistaken.

Keep me reasonably sweet; a sour old woman or a crotchety old man are simply the crowning works of the devil.

Make me thoughtful, but not moody, helpful but not bossy.

*-selected*

**Each One Bring One!**  
**53 in '23**  
**Invite Someone Each Week!**

*You can always tell when a man  
is quite well informed and intelligent.  
His views are very much like yours.*

## *Cannibalism*

The Apostle Paul wrote, "*But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed of another.*" (Galatians 5:15)

Cannibals are known as man eaters because of their killing and devouring one another. Many that don't lay claim to this evil practice are guilty nevertheless because they use tongue and teeth cannibalistically. In writing to Christians, the Apostle Paul is giving fair warning about such persons. It is entirely possible to kill and devour a man or woman's influence and good name by backbiting and evil speaking. Such an ugly spirit is but a remnant of the cannibal age. Are we not taught in the Word to "speak evil of no man?"

One of the grievous sins that Christians do is that of gossiping, and few of us ever realize that we are guilty. Many people who gossip will read articles such as this and it will never dawn on them that they are guilty.

You see, some people never seem to talk about anything, except somebody else. Let us take the warning of Jesus seriously as he said, "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account" (Matthew 12:36)

*-Just A Moment*

## *On The Lighter Side. . .*





**SEPTEMBER 10, 2023**

**Make your plans to be here and bring a guest (or 2)**

\* \* \* \* \*

Hospitality Group 1 will be in charge of this luncheon. The members of that group are: Marsha Bounds, LaResa Livingston, Batty Miller, Lisa Miller and Melonia Molloy.

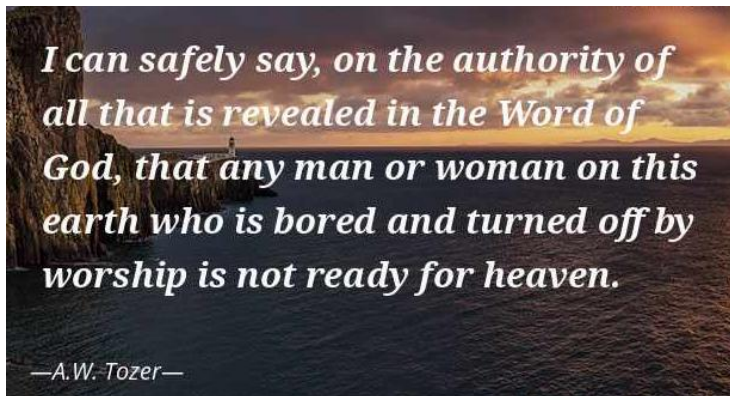
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**September 27, 2023**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Please make your plans to come and join us.**



**Make your plans to be in Bible Class**  
**9:45 Sunday Morning**  
**7:00 Wednesday Evening**



**Martha Bradshaw** was having a chemical stress test this past Wednesday.

**Mike Lout** was having an echo-cardiogram on Wednesday.

**Buddy Sowell** (friend of Debra Pate) is recovering from Hip Replacement surgery this past Monday.

#### **OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

**Leon Aldridge, Roxie Bostick, Gene Bradshaw, Martha Bradshaw, Martha Jean Golden, Geneva Graves, Alice Hall, Thelma Hinton, Louise Johnson, LaResa Livingston, Mike Lout, Mike O'Brien, Debra Pate, Jerry Pate, Wayne Sims, Betty Willis**

#### **"EXTENDED FAMILY" AND FRIENDS**

**Cody Anthony** (LaResa Livingston's nephew) **Mitchell Anthony** (LaResa Livingston's brother), **Minion Bean**-(Mike O'Brien's mother) **Aleshia Bradshaw** (Gene & Martha Bradshaw's granddaughter in law) **Brenda Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's sister in law) recovering from knee surgery; **Curtis Bradshaw** (Gene Bradshaw's brother) recovering from pneumonia; **Ron Cone** (Laura Miller's dad), **Hugh and Pat Fletcher** (Sarah Fletcher's brother and sister-in-law dealing with multiple health issues) **Gail Foster** (Cancer) **Bobbie Gray** (Jerry Pate's Aunt) **Geneva Harrison** (Mike Bostick's mother) **Glynn Hartt** (friend of Cissy Amos) **Suzanne Ihlo** (Martha Jean Golden's sister recovering from a stroke) **Debbie Lynn** (Abbey Perkins' mother dealing with memory issues) **Lamar McCormick** (friend of Sarah Fletcher, multiple health issues) **Reba Miley** (friend of Debra Pate) **Vervan Pate** (Jerry Pate's brother) is being treated for stomach cancer. **Al Reick** (Robbie Holt's brother-in-law) pancreatic cancer. **Stephanie Richard** (Friend of Norma Perkins) cancer; **Calvin Smith** (Debra Pate's uncle) heart and blood pressure issues; **Michael Smith** (Debra Pate's cousin) is being treated for lung cancer in Green Acres; **Suellen Swank** (friend of Norma Perkins) **J. C. and Pat Tate** (Jana O'Brien's mother and father) **Myrtle Turner** (Norma Perkins Mother) **Wes Wiesemer** (Gene Bradshaw's nephew) recovering from a stroke and also suffering with cancer: **Clark Paul Williams** (LaResa Livingston's cousin)

#### **THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND FOREIGN SERVICE**

**Cole Barbee, Adam Bradshaw, Leland Bradshaw, Michele Bradshaw Rosie Tate and Lucas Tate**



## Across The Preacher's Desk

As tropical storm Idalia strengthened to hurricane status earlier this week, evacuation orders were issued in some areas in anticipation of the storm making landfall. When I hear about storms causing evacuations, it causes me to think of an incident in the life of Jesus when he was in a little boat with his disciples on Galilee. We read in Mark chapter 4 that a great storm of wind arose on the Sea of Galilee, the waves were beating into the ship and the disciples were afraid. Yet, in the midst of that horrific storm, Jesus was asleep in the back of the ship.

The storm with all of its fury could not wake Jesus up, yet, the fearful cry of His disciples woke Him. They asked Him if it mattered to Him whether they died or not. When they woke Him up, Mark tells us that Jesus rebuked the wind and said unto the sea, "Peace, be still". We are told that the wind ceased and there was a great calm. (Mark 4:39)

It was then that Jesus asked them, "Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?". Let's face it, storms are going to come in our lives. Storms of doubt, fear, temptation, sickness and disease. Storms that threaten us with loss of health or loss of wealth. Whatever storm is blowing in our life, Jesus can calm that storm if we will make Him the Lord and master of our lives. Remember, if Jesus is not Lord of all of your life, He is not Lord at all in your life. Resolve today, right now, to make whatever changes need to be made for Jesus to be Lord of your life, all of your life!

*it's something to think about.....tlp*

**The Lord's Plan  
For Evangelism –  
Each one Bring one!  
53 in '23!**