

# ~ Kevin's Kolumn ~

## **Beleaguered Boasters**

I'm sure you've encountered them. They always have something to say. They make sure their mountains are just a little harder to scale; a little more difficult to climb. The apostle Paul encountered more than his fair share of beleaguered boasters; so much so that he satirically lays out an entire laundry list of things he could 'boast' about. A Hebrew of Hebrew's. An ideal Israelite. An offspring of Abraham. A servant of the Savior. Numerous imprisonments, countless beatings, near death experiences, stoned, shipwrecked, beaten with rods, adrift at sea, robbed, accused of wrongdoing, hungry, thirsty, often without food, un-relinquishing exposure to the elements...

Paul could have easily threw in the towel and said, "You know what? I've had it! I'm tired of dealing with all the naysayers, all the whiners, and all the bellyachers. I need a break!" Interestingly enough, God reminds Paul, "I gave you your break the day I saved you." To take it a step further, Paul says, "To keep me from becoming CONCEITED [about all the difficulties plaguing me] God went so far as to allow Satan to inflict me with a thorn in the flesh to HARASS me which kept me from becoming too conceited." (2 Cor. 12: 7f).

Wouldn't you think God would take it easy on poor, ole' Paul for all he had been through for the advancement of the gospel? After all, how much hardship can someone endure anyway? Listen to how Paul concludes his thoughts in verse 10 of that 12<sup>th</sup> chapter: "FOR THE SAKE OF CHRIST, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I AM WEAK, THEN I AM STRONG." Paul learned something each of us need to learn: We need to be far more dependent on God's strength than He needs to be on ours!

*Have a blessed day and remember the One who gave it to you!*

*Kevin*

### **Songs of Praise**

- 121 Come, Let Us All Unite to Sing  
Announcements
- 452 Standing on the Promises
- 474 Thank You, Lord  
Prayer
- 361 Nailed to the Cross  
Communion
- 538 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less  
Sermon
- 492 Only in Thee
- 490 It Is Well with My Soul

*Hello! We are so happy to have you  
worshiping with us today! If you are visiting,  
please sign the Guest Book in the front foyer.*

*Please come back soon.*

## **Prayer Requests**

- ♥Continue to keep the Jackson family in your prayers.
- ♥Pray daily for the following: Keith Kisner, Edwina Summers, Harold Phillips, Marie Toothman, Bill Knight & Jim Reszler.
- ♥Agnes Moore (Tom Moore's mother) is in the VA on life support. Prayers have been requested for Tom, Jenny, Agnes and the entire family.
- ♥Infant son of Jamie Jacobs (Kevin & Mary's nephew) is in the NICU because of premature birth. James David Jacobs III weighs only 1.5# and is in need of a blood transfusion. Doctors have only given James a 25% chance of making it, but its possible doctors don't know our Great Physician. Prayers appreciated for Jamie, Konni and young James.
- ♥Please continue to keep Denise Myers, sister of Dianne Tonkery, in prayer. She is still dealing with blood clot issues.
- ♥Pray for Theo and Lisa as Theo recovers from his recent knee surgery and Lisa struggles with personal issues.
- ♥Dave White asks prayers for his wife Holly and for his uncle, Newton Haught, as Newton battles congestive heart failure.

## **News & Notes**

**Super Bowl Party** – There will be a Super Bowl Party on Sunday, February 1<sup>st</sup> immediately following the evening services at the home of Kevin & Mary Lough. Please bring finger foods and soda. Everyone welcome! Questions, please see Kevin or Mary.

**Baby Shower** – There will be a baby shower in honor of Leslie Shaffer Hall on Saturday, February 14<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. in the Lower Fellowship Hall. Please RSVP to Betty Jo Shaffer at 304-612-5295 or Lisa at 304-365-5662 by February 6<sup>th</sup>. Registered at Toys R Us and Target. She is having a girl. All ladies are invited to attend.

## **Save the Dates...**

**Spring Friend Day** will be Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Vacation Bible School** is scheduled for the week of June 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>. If you would like to help with VBS, please see Mary Lough. This years theme is "Heartbeat Hospital".