

THE BULLETIN

"Show me thy ways, O Lord; teach me thy paths" Psalm 25:4

October 28, 2007

One Person's Happiness is Another Person's...."

From time to time I watch a program called Behind the Music on VH-1. Each program focuses on a different musician or musical group, going Behind the Music and looking to the personal lives of the makers of the music.

I find the program very instructive about human nature. Those of you still convinced that happiness can be found only if there is enough fame and money available need to watch this show. An amazing number of very rich, very famous people are unhappy drug and alcohol addicted people.

It is particularly interesting to me when they look at those who gained their fame in the late sixties and early seventies. This was the generation that began the rejection of traditional (biblical) values. While the constant chatter of these people was about things like love, freedom, peace and happiness, it all seemed to hinge on sex and drugs. Love meant sex. Freedom meant the freedom to have sex with whomever you desired. Happiness was sex and hallucinogenic drugs. Now this doesn't make them unlike many people today, but there is this significant difference: people today who act that way are simply recognized as being hedonistic, but those of the generation of the sixties and seventies were allegedly furthering some great principle. In the end, of course, they were acting exactly like the hedonist. Jesus said people could be recognized for what they really were by their fruits.

Recently the program focused on a famous quartet called the Mamma's and the Pappa's. The story of that group is a great lesson in the failure of the idea that if people would simply seek personal happiness then biblical values can be dropped and no one need get hurt.

Twenty-five-year-old John Philips was traveling the country playing his guitar and singing at coffee houses throughout the country. His home was in New York where he had a wife and two

children. While in California he met a 16 year old blonde by the name of Michelle, who, he claimed, seduced him. Michelle then goes to New York and tells his wife that John is now hers.

John had a vision for a folk group. He and Michelle would be in the group, but he needed someone to be the lead singer. Now enters Denny, who became the male lead vocal (later Cass Elliot would complete the group). The group became quite famous. Over the course of time Michelle took a liking to Denny, and Denny returned the feelings. In short, they began to have an affair (which is a nice way of saying they were sleeping together). When John found out he was furious. He kicked Michelle out of the band. Isn't it interesting that when his happiness meant cheating on his wife it was alright for him to cheat on his first wife with Michelle. But, when happiness for Michelle meant cheating on her husband (who happened to be John) suddenly John became interested in morals. Michelle was actually only doing for her happiness what John had done earlier in the name of his own happiness. I guess one person's happiness is often the cause of another person's misery.

Try as people may they always seem to end up affirming the wisdom of the biblical standard of morality. Adultery is wrong and it almost always leads to misery for someone. Unfortunately, for many people, they don't seem to realize this until they are the one who is miserable.

Gene Burgett

THE CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 28 (Sun) Sunday Morning Worship
 October 29 (Mon) Fl. School of Preaching Class
 October 30 (Tues)
 October 31 (Wed) Wednesday Bible Study
 November 1 (Thur)
 November 2 (Fri) UF Homecoming
 November 3 (Sat)

FALL FESTIVAL - NOVEMBER 10th

Everyone is invited to the Fall Festival on November 10th, starting at 3:30 p.m. and ending when the last person leaves. This will take place at the Stokes Residence. There is a sign up sheet in the back for those planning to attend. Please sign up by November 7th! There is also a sign up sheet for side dishes. Hamburgers and hotdogs will be provided. Please bring your lawn chairs!! See Dwight or Angie for directions.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- A Fall Festival - November 10th
- There is also a singing/fellowship being considered. See Travis for more info.
- The 2nd annual Christmas progressive dinner will be Saturday, December 15th. Mark your calendar...more details to come.

SICK AND/OR INJURED

Susan Richards had surgery this past week. She is in hopes of coming home today.

THE PANTRY

Due to a lack of food requests in the past year, we have not requested food recently. The pantry needs restocking for year round giving and for the holidays. We now have a contact who works as a liaison between the student's homes and Irby, Alachua and Newberry Elementary schools. We are hopeful this contact will help us reach more families who are in need. We plan to help at least two families for Thanksgiving and two for Christmas.

In the past we have requested certain items each week. Now we will give the entire list of what we need for the pantry, so that you can utilize what is on sale each week. See the list which is included in your bulletin or on the table in the back.

Reminders: We cannot give out items that are past the expiration date. We do not keep items that are not canned, on a long term basis (ex: pasta, rice, cereal, cookies). All non-canned items are given out ASAP, so as not to start an insect problem. We always take cash to purchase perishables.

Please contact Connie with any suggestions or questions.

LADIES

Ladies, please sign up on the work list at the back of the auditorium. This is the work list for next year.

NEW ADDRESS

Susan Rivera and her children have moved to 2701 SW 13th Street, Apt. 416, Gainesville, FL. 32608

TRAVELERS

Mary Ellen Swain is still traveling. We pray for her safe return.

The Devastating Effects of Divorce

June 28, 1999

by Wayne Jackson

Taken from www.christiancourier.com

The marriage principles found in the Bible have a purpose; they are designed for our benefit.

Through the prophet Malachi, Jehovah God said to ancient Israel: "I hate divorce" (2:16, NASB). The Lord hates divorce because he loves people and divorce is devastating to humankind.

Man did not live one day upon this earth apart from the environment of a home. In fact, the very foundation of society is the home. Marriage is that divine union between a man and a woman who love one another, and who have welded their lives together "so long as they both shall live." It is the cement that holds society together.

Moreover, it is this very societal cohesiveness that facilitates the spread of the redemptive gospel of Jesus Christ. When the family structure disintegrates, a significant factor in the growth of Christian faith is missing, and the gospel of God is hindered. Those who encourage capricious, unauthorized divorce undermine the cause for which the Savior died.

Divorce, generally speaking, is a tremendous evil. In fact, it is so bad that Jesus Christ allows it (together with a subsequent remarriage) on one basis only—that of fornication (Matthew 5:32; 19:9). Subsequent unions following divorce—for all parties other than the innocent victim of a marriage breached by fornication—constitute adulterous relationships.

The divorce problem has reached alarming proportions. In 1970 there were 4.3 million divorced people in America. By 1994 that number had more than quadrupled to a staggering 17.4 million. According to the Journal of Marriage and the Family, the fairly recent phenomenon of "no-fault" divorce has significantly accelerated the plague of American divorce. The United States now leads the world in marriage break-ups.

In a recently published book, *Why Marriage Matters: Reasons to Believe in Marriage in Post-Modern Society*, author Glenn T. Stanton has compiled a massive

amount of evidence which reveals the shocking effect that divorce is having in this country.

This book is a survey of the most authoritative social science research published over the course of the last century. It demonstrates how first-time, life-long, monogamous marriage significantly improves the lives of adults, their children and the nation at large.

Consider some of the following factors:

- Alcoholism is much more likely to be a problem among those who have been divorced than those who have not. Those divorced only once have almost twice the rate of alcoholism as those who have never been divorced. Folks divorced more than once are almost three times as likely to have drinking problems.
- The suicide rate is almost three times higher among the divorced than among life-long spouses.
- The National Institute of Mental Health advises that the divorced are about four times as likely to have problems with depression as are the never-divorced.
- Studies have shown that the prevalence of suffering from any psychiatric disorder over a lifetime was significantly lower for those in stable marriages.
- Statistical data have revealed that children of divorced parents are much more likely to drop out of school than children from one-time-married couples.
- Children from broken homes are much more likely to have a difficult time obtaining and maintaining steady employment.
- The children of divorced parents are more likely to become "teen parents," producing out-of-wedlock babies, than the children of life-long married parents.
- The offspring of divorced parents are twenty to thirty percent more likely to have health problems, or to be injury-prone than youngsters whose original parents are still together.
- The children of divorced parents are three times more likely to have emotional or behavioral problems than they will have if their biological parents stay together.
- The evidence is all too clear. The Creator knew what he was doing when he gave strict regulations for the preservation of the original family. In view of this, Christian parents will make every effort possible to keep their marriages intact. Moreover, they will instruct their children in the concept of the permanency of marriage as designed by God.

✠ *"The Prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective" James 5:16* ✠

REMEMBER TO PRAY FOR

SICK or INJURED: Susan Rivera, Lorraine Guynn, Jack Martin (Sister Clay's nephew), Sherelle Kendrick, Joe Hoover, Carl Lee, Leanna Hopewood (Shelton's daughter), Paul Ledbetter, Fran Spohn, Laura Shelton, Larry Shelton, Alene Cameron (Nell Villali's aunt), Linda Ambrose (daughter of Carl Lee)

Shut-ins: Bessie Parker, Francis Wisenbaker
Traveling: Mary Ellen Swain, Tom & Donna Lydon

Military: Justin Cauthen

PRIVILEGED TO SERVE NEXT WEEK

Scripture Reading - Mark Nortz

Singing

a.m. -

p.m. -

Wed. -

Prayer -

Preaching -

Lord's Table -

Prepare communion - Donna Lydon

Nursery -

Closing Prayer -

NOVEMBER

Second Sunday Fellowship - Beverly Mikell,
Donna Lydon, Patty Earnhart, Pam Bass



TO OUR VISITOR

It is our sincere desire to help all men and women understand what God's will is for their life. Here at the Alachua Church of Christ, we stand ready and willing to help you with any needs you may have. Here are just a few of the services we offer: Marriage Counseling, Family Counseling and Addiction Counseling, Free audiotapes and In-home Bible Study.

Feel free to make your request known. Ask any member of the congregation.

Two Doors Down

Topic(s) --> Christian Life, Divorce

Two doors down I witnessed a tragedy Saturday. No, not one that we'll read of in the Star Telegram but nonetheless a tragedy. A huge moving van opened its cavernous mouth and consumed the furniture and belongings of a young family. Three blond-headed boys got in a station wagon headed east and followed the van with their mother; the father in his sedan went west. The tragedy of a freshly broken home.

Two doors down I never knew of any domestic turmoil. They smiled and waved as I jogged down the street. He always asked how many miles I was going. Their well manicured lawn matched all the rest and revealed none of the misery which must have been endured behind closed doors.

Two doors down stands an empty house that will always silently rebuke me. I never reached out to that family. I introduced myself on the day they moved in but that was it. No invitations into our home; no invitations to worship with us; no meaningful interactions with them at all. Just smiles and waves and talk of how many miles I planned to run.

We're busy people-all of us. This is a fast-paced society in which we live. We run on well defined tracks. Little time to venture off our tracks and slow our pace to interact with people who are not imperative for our ongoing well being.

But let's remember, we can and must continually extend the healing, ministering hands of Christ because there are people hurting...families shattering...lives tormented... just two doors down.

What an opportunity we all have to change our ways and begin making a difference in the lives of others. Invite every family you know to services!

- John Scott

"Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." - Phil 2:4

Taken from housetohousehearttoheart.com

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MINISTER

Gene Burgett (an elder)

ASSEMBLIES

Sunday:
Bible Classes 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday:
Bible Study 7:00 p.m.

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