



WEST SIDE WINDOW



Volume 21, Issue 4

January 25, 2015

(Cont. from page 1)

No doubt Ezra faced a similar dilemma as he surveyed the Israelites' intermarriages with pagans—actions that had placed them in the position of committing the same errors that their fathers had committed. The people had been living in Babylon their entire lives; they were willing and devout enough to attempt the harsh trek to Jerusalem; now they needed to be prepared to worship God and seek His law. Looking out over the half-built temple and the vast ruins of the city, Ezra must have noted the similarities between the physical state of the city and the spiritual condition of God's people. Considering all the work to be done (like restoring the law and acceptable worship), and considering all that already had occurred (like the difficult march of the faithful few), it must have seemed like an impossible request to ask those guilty of intermarriage to abandoned their spouses and children. Yet we never read of Ezra attempting to justify their actions, wavering in his own commitment to the law, or dismissing the violation as insignificant or legalistic. Rather, his reaction was one of astonishment and intense grief over the disobedience.

Ezra's commitment to God and His law must have been contagious, because three days later, all the people in Israel gathered in the rain, shivering in the damp cold, to inquire of Ezra what the Lord would have them to do. Their resolve is commendable, and worthy of imitation, for beginning that very day, every man guilty of intermarriage put away his illegitimate wife and children—providing a lesson that applies to those today who are involved in illegitimate marriages due to adultery. All of us who seek God would do well to "prepare our hearts" like Ezra, not only to **know** the law, but also to **do** it.

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This and That

—**GROUP TWO** will meet on Jan. 31st in the lower level at 6:00p for fellowship and a finger food carry in. See group leaders, Lowell and Charleen, if you have questions.

—A note from Kendall: "As you know, in 2014, the funding for the food bank was taken from the church treasury. Beginning in Jan. 2015, this funding will come from personal donations and will no longer be taken from the church treasury. If you would like to contribute, please see Kendall or the Elders."

—Canned meat, canned fruit and soup are the items requested for the food pantry for this month. Thank you for your generosity.

If you have old reading glasses or prescription glasses for which you have no use, please consider donating them. The people of India can use them and are very grateful for any kind they receive. Mike and Gary will be leaving soon for India and will gladly take the eyeglasses as they go. There is a box near the East door for your convenience.

Mark your Calendars, Ladies.....

The Ladies "Learn-to" Class will meet on February 21, 2015 at 1:00p to share cookies and swap recipes. So "Girls" of all ages, join together for a sweet something, singing, sharing and who knows what other surprises may be lurking.

Ladies of other Church of Christ congregations in Muncie and Anderson will also be invited. Sally Anderson will prepare a booklet of the recipes and advice collected on this day. Hope you will come!



Preparing the Heart

By Alden Bass, Ph.D

The attitude of the scribe Ezra, described in the Old Testament book of the same name, is commendable and worthy of imitation. The book is set in the time after the Babylonian captivity, which was a time of restoration and return to the Jewish homeland of Palestine. The Jews had been punished by God for their idolatry and wickedness, uprooted from their ancestral home, and placed under the control of a foreign nation. God had ordained that the captivity would last only 70 years, however, and as the allotted time span neared its end, groups of Israelites were led southwest to reclaim the land that was theirs. Ezra, a "skilled scribe," guided the second convoy to Jerusalem in 458 B.C., with the express purpose of re-establishing lawful worship and beautifying the house of God.

The man Ezra is described in chapter seven of the book as one who had "set his heart to seek the law of Jehovah, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and ordinances" (7:10). There are two primary parts to this description that are relevant to us—each necessary, each difficult. First, Ezra "set" (i.e., prepared) his heart. The scribe recognized his great responsibility as a leader of Israel, a nation only recently delivered from affliction resulting from religious neglect. The people had not been able to worship God lawfully in over seventy years; Ezra had been born and reared under a foreign power in a foreign land influenced by a foreign and false religion. He could not afford to assume he knew the things that were pleasing to God; rather, he had to seek them and find them. But even before he could begin that search, he had to adopt the proper frame of mind. If he sought the truth with the wrong attitude (e.g., in an attempt to justify some preconceived ideas or modes of worship learned in Babylon), he would be doomed to failure. God's truth is plain and within our reach, but we must prepare our hearts to accept that truth with an open mind, no matter how unpleasant it may be to us.

Of course, **knowing** the path is much different than **walking** the path. Ezra's resolution exceeded mere biblical study, introspection, and prayer. He set his heart to both **seek** and **do** the law. No one will deny that certain practices and habits (such as swearing, neglect of the elderly and widows, covetousness, or improper lust, to name just a few) are condemned in the Scriptures. Pornography has become a scourge even among evangelists. (Cont. on page 4)

SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study —
9:30 am
Worship — 10:30 am &
6:00 pm
Wed. Bible Study —
7:00 pm

MINISTER

Michael Gors

ELDERS

Michael Gors
Gary Reynolds
Larry Reynolds
Todd Stults

DEACONS

Don Allison
Fellowship

Kendall Clark
Benevolence

Jim Clark-Visitation

Lowell Huffman-Media

Volker Jaromin—
Communication and
Advertising

MISSION WORKS

Russia & India
Mark Reynolds

Memphis School of
Preaching

Armand Wine
Ronnie Gootam

Southeast Institute of
Biblical Studies

Preaching
Caleb Taylor

New Hampshire
Laconia Church of
Christ
Shane Belanger

WORSHIP FOR January 25, 2015

MORNING WORSHIP

Announcements: Todd Stults
Song Leader: Lowell Huffman
1st Prayer: Joe Reed
Scripture: Bill Smith
Acts 16:25-33

Sermon: Mike Gors
“What Must I do to be Saved”
Closing Prayer: Jay Kellow
Sound Room: Jimmy Clark

COMMUNION SERVERS

West Side- Outside: Jerry Hoyt
 Inside: Jim Smith
East Side— Inside: Rex Harper
 Outside: Ira Chambers

EVENING WORSHIP

Song Leader: Lowell Huffman
Prayer: Jim Clark
Scripture Reading: Jonah Stults
Psalms 46:1-7
Sermon: Mike Gors
“Because God is...”
Communion Table: Richard Messer
Closing Prayer: Sean Bobo
Sound Room: Jimmy Clark

GROUP 1 DUTIES, JAN 25 & 28

Group 1 is responsible for door greeters, locking the building and communion clean-up
Chad & Jennifer Bobo are group leaders
Kista & Elayna--Communion Prep for January
Ann Witty--Communion Prep for February

Remember in Prayer

- | **Beth Rumfeld**, Broken pelvis. In-law to Richard Messer.
- | **Brett Rutherford**, Missionary. Lesions on brain.
- | **Delores Huffman**, foot surgery on this past Friday
- | **Doug & Sally Anderson**
- | **Harmony**, Friend of Heather Chambers. Will be having tests for diabetes. Harmony is 13 years old.
- | **Herb & Betty Smith**,
- | **Ira Chambers**, Released from BMH. Heart problem.
- | **Jim Witty**
- | **Jerry Anderson**, Uncle of Doug Anderson. Heart blockage
- | **Judy Schuck**, Radiation treatment for cancer. Charlene’s cousin
- | **Kennedy Zade**, Dorothy’s granddaughter.
- | **Kristi Tesmer**, Shirley Durnal’s daughter.
- | **Lanier Bailey**, Elder at Towne Acres. Now residing at Parker Health Care
- | **Linda Bigler**, Brain cancer.
- | **Les & Sara Bonham**, Brother and sister-in-law to Pat Kidd. He has Alzheimer's Disease and she has cancer.
- | **Marie McBride**, Remains a patient at BMH with heart issues resulting in a fall at home. Registered as Bennie Marie McBride.
- | **Rosemary Summers**. Stroke. Appreciates cards.
- | **Rodney Lawson**, Lung Cancer. Now residing at Signature Health Care, formerly Muncie Health Care on North Walnut Street. Cousin of Kathy Harper.
- | **Sandy Crawford**, Cancer and shingles. Wife of close friend to Kendall Clark
- | **Shawna Schock**, difficulty with pain management



Remember our Shut-ins with Cards, Visits and Prayer:

- Bill Gaw—Westminster Village
- Evelyn Vannatter—Elmcroft
- Forrest Hurst—Elmcroft
- Lana Blanchard—Albany Health Care
- Vada Zeek—Willow Bend

Midweek Bible Study January 28th

- Devotions: Chad
- Song Leader: Sean Bobo
- Prayer: Adam Gors

Attendance for the week of Jan. 18, 2015

Sun. Bible Study	72
Sun. Morning Worship	96
Sun. Evening worship	57
Wed. Bible Study	60

Happy Birthday

- Pat Lee—Jan. 30
- Jack Qualkenbush—Jan 31
- Vivian Bigler—Feb. 3
- Danny Odle—Feb. 5
- Tom Hulloman—Feb. 7
- Janet Messer—Feb. 7
- Bill Winemiller—Feb. 7



TODAY
on January 25th:
Boys Song Leading at 3:00
Girls Competitive
Song Leading
at 4:30

Looking Ahead

- Jan. 27, Men’s breakfast at IHOP 8:00a
- Jan. 27, Women’s breakfast, IHOP at 10:00a
- Jan. 29, Ladies Deep Bible Study, 7p
- Jan. 30, Congregational singing at Waynedale, 7-9p
- Food and fellowship to follow the service. See flyer on the bulletin board.
- Jan. 31, Bible Bowl at 7p
- Feb. 1, Devotional at Bethel Pointe at 2:00
- Feb. 5, College & High School Devo at Towne Acres, 7:00p
- Feb. 7, Bible Bowl at 7:00p
- Feb. 21, Ladies “Learn-to” cookie swap; Chat & Chew at 1:00p. See flyer on bulletin board.

Directions to Heaven:
Turn right and go straight!

