

## Light and Life

## A Sister's Care

Last week, Warren and I went to visit Mary Lou Lewis to see how she was doing. However, that is not how our conversation went. Mary Lou was more interested in talking about how we were doing!

There she lay in her bed, unable to move, but uninterested in talking about her own health. Rather, she expressed concern for the health of sister Rai Starr, for whom we have been praying. She was overjoyed with the news of the coming Baby Burcham and spoke lovingly of the Walsh family. Rather than focusing the conversation on her own disabilities, she only expressed concern for others and how she would be praying for them. Mary Lou's concern for herself was that she wished there could be some way for her to express her appreciation and love for her church family.

What a wonderful example Mary Lou is of putting the cares of others above our own. Paul wrote, "Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others" (Ph 2:3-4). This is in imitation of Christ (Ph. 2:5-11)!

James wrote, "Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing psalms. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Confess your trespasses to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much" (Jas. 5:13-16).

See how focused our prayers can be on the needs of others? Thank you for your example, Mary Lou. We love you!

- Sam Bunyard

## Another Perspective

## Neglecting Opportunities

Neglecting God's opportunities carries serious consequences. This fact is clear, both in revelation and in the things that we observe in life.

God gives the farmer a window of opportunity to plant his crop every year. The farmer who misses the planting season will never again have the opportunity to plant that year's crop. He has missed the harvest and will suffer the poverty of his negligence. The wise man said, "To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born and a time to die; A time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted" (Ecc. 3:1-2).

Young people have a window of opportunity in youth to educate themselves when their minds are more 'pliable'. Parents have the strategic window of opportunity to "train up a child in the way he should go" when they are young (Prov. 22:6). The pliable mind and character of youth can never be regained once it has passed.

God gives us the opportunity to hear the gospel (Acts 11:13-14, 10:33) and "be saved" (Acts 2:40) from the condemnation of our sins. The Holy Spirit sternly warns us of the consequences of "neglecting so great a salvation" as God has afforded (Heb. 2:3). The dereliction of our duty and stewardship regarding God's opportunities carries eternal consequences (Luke 12:42- 48, Matt. 25:31-46) – including the failure to warn the lost of their doom (Ezek. 3:18, Acts 20:26-27).

What will you do with your opportunities?

- Brett W. Hogland  
(edited for space)

## ASSEMBLY TIMES

### Sunday

Bible Class 9:30  
Morning Assembly 10:30  
Evening Assembly 5:00

### Wednesday

Evening Bible Class 6:30

## RADIO PROGRAM

### The Bible Speaks



Sunday 9:00-9:30a.m.  
KURM 790AM

## Downtown Church of Christ

P.O. Box 447  
201 W. Chestnut Street  
Rogers, AR 72757

479-636-3575

www.downtowncoc.net

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

with  
Brett Hogland

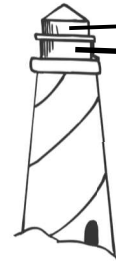
**STARTS  
TODAY!**

## ELDERS:

Otis Hardin  
Perry Johnson  
Ken Parker  
Alan Revier  
GW Walsh

## DEACONS:

TJ Burleson  
Scott Hale  
Joel Heiligenthal  
Jason Hill  
Chris Johnson  
Brock McKeel  
Randy Potter  
Tim Roberts  
Randy Shell



# DOWNTOWN GOSPEL BEACON

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ROGERS, ARKANSAS**

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## Living in Babylon

It's hard living in Babylon. Though it has an enticing side – its trinkets and toys, its pomp and its pleasure – it also has a dark side. And it's a very dark side indeed.

We see its dark side every time we bury a loved one. We see it in the hospitals (especially the children's hospitals). We see it in the struggles of mid-life and the sufferings of old age. We see it in every broken home (and other broken relationships). We see it every time a heart is broken – for whatever reason. We see its dark side every time someone becomes so discouraged they contemplate taking their own life. Yes, Babylon is hard.

But the child of God is not a citizen of Babylon. Like Abraham, we have been called out of the country that we have called home for so long and we have been promised something far greater. Like the children of the exile, we know this is a temporary dwelling place. We know that we have a true city that awaits us – the heavenly Jerusalem. And we know that it surpasses anything that Babylon could offer (He 11:8, 16, 12:22, Ph 3:20).

So, take heart! Use your time here wisely! Serve the Lord and others! The time will pass soon enough – and you will be home! - *WKing*

## FAMILY NEWS

### PRAYER LIST –

*Preachers we support:* Japan, Philippines, Vietnam, Canada, Mexico, Peru, & U.S.

*Sick:* G&K Fletcher, J&M Swim, J Marshall, S Shell, L&T Deen, Rai Starr

*Shut-ins:* Betty Jo Young, Billie Pennington, Shirley Cole, Mary Lou Lewis, V Carter

*Military:* Kyler Sullins, Sean Potter

**VBS SCHEDULE** – Schedule for today: 5:00pm-6:30pm. Monday-Thursday:

6:30pm-8:00pm. Students will sign up in the foyer, then go straight to classes.

**SENTENCE SERMON** – Maybe the reason we don't talk to our friends about God is because we haven't talked to God about our friends.