



**Barbara Smith**

*Birthday 08/19/2020*

**Jerry Hensley**

*Birthday 08/21/2020*

**Jaylin White**

*Birthday 08/13/2020*



**Song Practice on Zoom Tuesday evening at 7**

## Contributions

Week 08/15/2020

**\$ 3,602**

We are working on a way to do that online (who would have ever thought), but in the mean- time, those who give by check could simply mail it to Kerry Lashlee 9748 Bent Brook Dr Montgomery, AL 36117

In the beginning, this emergency

looked short term and we just thought that any and all could give it all after the emergency. Now that it looks much longer, it becomes important that we each continue to contribute weekly or monthly as we have, if we are able, because bills still have to be paid and evangelists need to continue to be supported. We will let you know when we have any better solution to the problem.

PERRY HILL ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST



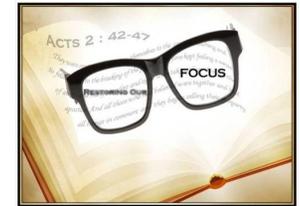
# Bulletin

News & Information  
for Members &  
Friends

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AUGUST 16, 2020

## Restoring Focus



William Hinson explains why animal trainers carry a stool when they go into a cage of lions. They have their whips, of course, and their pistols are at their sides. But invariably they also carry a stool. Hinson says it's the most important tool of the trainer. He holds the stool by the back and thrusts the legs toward the face of the wild animal. He maintains that the animal tries to focus on all four legs at once. In the attempt to focus on all four, a kind of paralysis overwhelms the animal, and it becomes tame, weak, and disabled because its attention is fragmented

When I heard that story I thought describes our society today that has lost focus on what is really important in life. Things like virtue. Honor. Integrity. Spiritual values. And because we are all influenced by our culture, it impacts the Christian community. Instead of seeking to transform culture through Christ, it is often easy to become conformed.

To help us stay focused the church where I preach in Kansas City, Missouri, has our as our theme this year: RESTORING OUR FOCUS. Why? Because, it's easy for Christians to forget who we are. Why we are here. And what our purpose is about.

There are so many things that can cloud our focus, divide our attention and dim our spiritual vision.

### (1) Sin may have blinded us.

Christians sin? Yes! We are not perfect just pardoned! The Bible warns us about sin affecting our spiritual vision. *Continued inside*



**Chuck Simpson update** 8/15/2020 - Chuck is still in the hospital. He is some better. He finished a steroid treatment and the hospital neurologist has started him on IVIG treatment. I believe this is an IV that uses antibodies to fight any infection he may have. No news yet on when he will be released. Please do pray for him.

**Neal Smith update** 8/13/2020 - Neal Smith is at home and he did not have a heart attack, but they discovered blood clots in his lungs. He has been given blood thinners which hopefully will take care of the problem. He has an appointment Monday for a scan for possible bone fragments that might be the source for continued pain.

**Helen Stewart passes** 8/13/2020 - It is with the deepest sympathy that we send this message. G.T., Laura and Matt just let us know that Helen passed away at 6:30 am this morning at Jackson Hospital. Funeral arrangements are not complete but services will be graveside only in Brundidge at Lakeview Cemetery. As soon as more details are available we will inform you.

G.T. wants to express his appreciation for your prayers and concern during Helen's illness and hospitalization.

**Bud Porter's brother, Richard** 8/12/2020 - Bud Porter's brother, Richard Porter, has been diagnosed with Covid-19. He believes he contracted the virus in the ER with his son Blake last week. His wife Lisa is also running a fever but tested negative. They both have significant underlying medical issues and would appreciate our prayers.

**Patricia Lange update** Brothers and sisters, following some tough days after her first chemo, I am thankful to report that my mom has been feeling better and gaining strength this week. She will be having her next chemo treatment in about nine days (8/24). My plans are to travel home for a few days and then return to help her with the second chemo. Thanks so much for any all prayers offered on her behalf!

*Continued*

“But he who hates his brother is in darkness and walks in darkness, and does not know where he is going, because the darkness has blinded his eyes” (I John 2:11) Darkness or sin will blind our eyes and cause us to lose focus.

We have heard the statement he is “blind with jealousy.” Or “blind rage.” Sins of disposition such as anger, bitterness, and lack of forgiveness blind us to God's way.

### **(2) Our Vision may be clouded by cares of this world**

Business concerns, family, activities, and personal interests can cloud our vision of spiritual things. Just trying to make it in this world can consume our time, effort and energy to the point where we fail to see beyond the world's smog.

Jesus also warned about the “cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches” (Matt 13:22-23). They can divert our focus. Blur our vision. Choke out the Word. And cause us to become unfruitful.

### **(3) We may have lost sight of our goal.**

How often do we get caught up in the circumstances around us and lose sight of the goal? Rick Warren was right when he wrote, “Vision is the ability to see the opportunities within your current circumstances.”

Circumstances don't have to be bad to divert our attention. Sometimes good fortune can lead us away from our values. All circumstances, good or bad, have the potential to help us on our spiritual journey. To draw us closer to God. To focus our attention on “the goal of our faith, the salvation of our souls” (2 Peter 1:9).

### **(4) Emotional Distractions may have us focused on the wrong things.**

Worry is a huge distraction. Worry saps our energy, weakens our resolve and dims our focus. In His Mountain Message Jesus said “don't worry about tomorrow.” Fear keeps us from focusing. Fear makes the thing we fear bigger than it is really is. Jesus says to us, “Do not fear little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom”

Discouragement can deflect our focus. Quit looking on outward things and focus on inward things. (2 Cor 4:16-18)

Have you allowed your spiritual focus to become clouded, blurred, or even totally lost? Then join us in this quest to restore focus! Where to begin?

The Psalmist said, Open my eyes, that I may see Wondrous things from Your law” (Ps 119:18) God's Word will restore spiritual sight to those blinded by sin, lift the fog that is obscuring your vision and enlighten your spiritual eyes.

—Ken Weliever, The Preacherman