

PLEASE PRAY FOR THESE:

Euin Barrier, Bernice Beeson,
Terry Cantrell, Ora Cash,
Dickie & Joann Crouch, Emily Devereux,
Richard Faulkner, Jimmy Hall,
Eva Lee, Ken & Mabel Lock,
Melvin & Ruth Messer, Bobby Mills,
Bill Parr, Sophia Sears,
Earline Smith, Linda Smith,
Barbara Staten, Joann White
Jimmy, Elizabeth, Katie & Laura Thompson,
Darlene Wilson, Geneva Wortham,
and those engaged in teaching the lost.

If you notice someone’s absence from the assembly pray for them, and call to see if there is some additional way you can help.

He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devises is hated (Proverbs 14:17).

MIDWEEK NEWS UPDATES AT:
www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com

PRAYER LIST UPDATES:

Mary Weston has been confined to home by back pain.

Mabel Lock is still bothered by persistent congestion, coughing and difficult breathing.

Kenneth Lock is still in NEA Baptist with pneumonia..

Peggy Rodel, cousin of **Katherine Ford**, is recuperating from eye surgery.

OTHER NEWS:

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

Linda Smith - Tuesday

THANK YOU: Please convey to the congregation our deep appreciation for their love and kindness. It was so great to be with you and share with you about the work that is taking place here at Souther Christian Home. All of you are an encouragement to us who work here at the home. I want to once again say **thank you for your support.**

It would be great if you could visit with us at sometime and see the work that is taking place here at southern Christian. Southern Christian Home exists **because God and those like you care!** Love, Your Brother in Christ, Julian Reynolds, Director of Church Relations. PS. We sure enjoyed the sandwiches!

THE RECORD SPEAKS (week of 6-13):

- Sunday Bible Class 70
- Sunday AM Worship 81
- Sunday PM Worship 63
- Contribution \$1,879
- Wednesday PM Bible Class 57

WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT YOU?

Next Week’s Lessons:

AM: Three Things the Devil Wants to Do
PM: Church Arithmetic

Welcome
to the Assemblies of
Harrisburg
Church of Christ

P. O. Box 266
(504 N. Brooks St)
Harrisburg, AR 72432
(870) 578-2965

Sunday:

Bible Classes 9:00
Worship 9:45; 6:00

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 7:00

Elders:

Ray Blanchard 578-2559
Bill Mears 578-9650
Mark Weston 931-2790

Evangelist:

Al Parr 578-9154
(Cell) 903-721-0332

World Evangelism:

- ◆Cape Town, S.A.;
- ◆Int’l Bible Academe;

Benevolence:

- ◆Children’s Homes, Inc.;
- ◆Southern Christian Home

★REMEMBER★
Elders & Deacons
meet tonight

Be a
Daily Bible Reader



visit www.HarrisburgChurchOfChrist.com

June 20, 2010

GOD BLESS DAD

It’s a shame that too seldom we think of Dad to extend to him the praise and honor commanded by God (Ephesians 6:1-3). It’s not bad that we have a day designated to his honor, but it is very sad that some people need such a day to motivate them to do what is right (James 4:17). Whether or not you are one who needs it – whether or not you show him throughout the year the respect due the name “father” (Proverbs 6:20) – take advantage of this one day to show him how much you appreciate him.

You may not think your father a very honorable person. Unfortunately, some are like that (II Kings 11:1). Maybe he didn’t provide properly for your food and clothing, play with you, attend your school programs or teach you important lessons. Some are like that. Maybe he didn’t set an example of regular attendance to worshipping God with the church, or serving Him in the community. Maybe he didn’t diligently teach you the Bible morning and evening at home and on the road (Deuteronomy 6:6-7), or encourage you to obey the gospel (Romans 10:16) and serve Jesus (Romans 14:17-18). Still, you probably owe your father a great deal more than most might realize. You have come to know (Exodus 10:2) and trust (Psalm 9:10) and serve (Matthew 4:10) the eternal Father, who has taught you to carry the message of God’s love to everyone.

God bless Dad.

- Al Parr

WORDS IN SONGS CROSSING THE BAR

In 1963 brother L. O. Sanderson copyrighted the musical score and arrangement he had written for an old Tennyson poem. The published result is “Crossing the Bar” (#528 in *Songs of the Church, 21st Century Edition*), a song we don’t hear many employing in their worship of God, but a song with an excellent devotional message. It is filled with poetic expressions the understanding of which might render the singing more meaningful and the song’s use more frequent among those who trust God.

SUNSET AND EVENING STAR. After the sun sets “the evening star” appears first to signal the coming of night. In the second stanza the equivalent expression is “twilight & evening bell, and after that the dark.” It was once the practice of “the town crier” to ring a bell and announce the hour and state of security. The cry of “all’s well” was a comfort to citizens turning in for the night; they could rest in confidence that someone was watching over their safety while they slept. The phrases in the song carry the tranquil confidence figuratively to the end of life and the final sleep. Life and death are often figured as day and night. We speak of one being in his “sunshine years” or “the twilight of his life.” Just so, the song begins with peaceful thoughts of safe repose under the security of God’s mighty hand.

ONE CLEAR CALL FOR ME. At the end of a day’s labor we lie down to sleep. The person who has labored for God clearly understands that the end of life’s “day” brings the time of rest.

Tennyson imagined that the soul answering the call has put out to sea.

MOANING OF THE BAR. The Christian’s crossing into the land of promised rest is likened in the Bible to Israel’s crossing the Jordan River into their promised land (see esp. Joshua chapters 3-4 and Hebrews 4). After this figure, Tennyson imagined that the soul answering the call has **PUT OUT TO SEA**. The faithful child of God has long desired to meet Him who has been the perfect **PILOT** through life, and is buoyed by hope of finally doing so **WHEN I HAVE CROSSED THE BAR**. In the image of navigation on a river or sea we can easily understand the occasional sand **BAR** threatening to impede our progress. In the 1933 edition of Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary is this comment: “Bar often suggests ingress or egress as being that to which the obstacle is opposed.” In other words, as a sand bar might restrict entry into, or progress through the water, the entire body of water, with all it’s obstacles, is referred as “the bar.” Tennyson’s figure is that

A SHORT COMMENTARY FROM AL on Hebrews 5:12 – It is sad that we live in age of rapid degradation of morality, but lamenting it doesn’t improve matters. The first Christians changed the same kind of world for better by preaching Christ (I Cor. 2:2). When they slacked in preaching they were admonished: “ye ought to be teachers.” Let’s get back to teaching Jesus to souls wandering aimlessly, lost in sin. It’s man’s only hope.

there should be no complaint when the faithful soul enters the passage into his eternal rest. In short, **MAY THERE BE NO SADNESS OF FAREWELL WHEN I EMBARK**. Nor should there be, for “the death of the righteous” (Numbers 23:10) is a realization of “hope” (Proverbs 14:32), and is “precious in the sight of the Lord” (Psalm 116:15).

A TIDE ... SEEMS ASLEEP, TOO FULL FOR SOUND AND FOAM. When the ocean’s tide comes into the shallows along the shore the waves break noisily upon the shore and churn up a foamy appearance. The fuller swells in deeper waters are silent and clean. The tide considered here is **THAT WHICH DREW FROM OUT THE BOUNDLESS DEEP**, an outgoing tide which came from the vastness of the deep ocean, and is returning there (it **URNS AGAIN HOME**). It’s a figure of the soul returning to God (compare Ecclesiastes 12:1-7).

God “hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation” (Acts 17:26). Man is designed to live on the land masses of (not in the water beside or the air above) the earth (not of some other planet, or in the vacuum of space). Death, a word meaning “separation,” **MAY BEAR ME FAR** from **OUR BOURNE** (limit, boundary, domain) **OF TIME AND PLACE**, but that will be no loss, for I have lived in **HOPE TO SEE MY PILOT FACE TO FACE**.

Understanding what we’re singing (I Corinthians 14:15) is essential if our singing is to worship God (Psalm 66:4). Perhaps some may better understand now this beautiful song of peaceful assurance, and may with the understanding be better able to worship God sincerely.

- *Al Parr*

*I have refrained my feet from every evil way,
that I might keep thy word*

(Psalm 119:101):

B E A D A I L Y B I B L E R E A D E R