



February 1, 2012

THOUGHTS FROM BRYAN

A few days back I received an e-mail from Chet with his PowerPoint for him and his dad's lesson. It is built around John chapter 9.

In this section of John's gospel Jesus heals a man born blind. The common belief during this day was physical abnormalities were God's punishment for sin in that person's life or the lives of someone close to them. So when Jesus' disciples meet this man they ask, "*Who sinned, this man or his parents that he was born blind?*" And Jesus' answer is startling to them, "*Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.*" **John 9:1-3**

Jesus rejects the view that all suffering is due to sin. Because the man was born blind Jesus had the opportunity to reveal God's power. What John shows is that through sickness, health or any other challenging condition we may find ourselves in, God's people can reveal His light to the world's darkness. With Christ the "why's" in life become "what's." Not why did this happen, but can be done to reveal God's power through it.

Now this is easy to say when we are not born blind and our loved ones are healthy, but that is where Chet will bless us - he is where the blind man was. While Chet has severe physical challenges, he does not live asking why he was born with no arms and shortened legs, but what can be done to display God's power through his situation. Chet lives a full, purposeful, abundant life - as his ministry motto says, "You Don't Need Arms!" Please be praying about Sunday and the blessing it will be to us all to live with purpose and hope come what may.
P.S.

There are many people telling me they are inviting friends and neighbors, which means we will need lots of food for our fellowship afterwards! We could have as many as 50 to 75 guests; please bring extra so we can take good care of our visitors.

OUR YOUTH

Saturday, February 4, CYG members will assist Patsy and Mike Black at the soup kitchen.

Sunday, February 5, Super Bowl Party at the home of Robby Swindle (2114 Oakdale Drive) immediately following evening services. Girls bring a two liter drink and boys bring a family size bag of chips (bring dip if you so choose). Parents wishing to help with desserts should contact Laura Swindle. RSVP on the CYG Face Book page.

Lads to Leaders Puppet Workshop, February 12 immediately following morning worship services. We will have lots of breaks during the afternoon, so plan to come and practice. More specific information information is posted on the *CYG Face book page*.

Winterfest Parent Meeting: February 12, immediately following evening services in the small auditorium. **Everyone who is going must attend with their parents.** Lots of very important information will be shared and you must be present so that you and your family will be prepared for the trip. We will have a Pizza party social after we receive Winterfest information. Please bring a two liter soft drink.

Lads to Leaders: April 6-8, 2012

Follow your CYG friends on the [CYG Facebook](#) page for announcements and upcoming events.

FAITH AVENUE

We are excited to welcome **Masha and Dasha Bzenyuk** to Faith Avenue! They are the new Tour Guides for the 4th and 5th graders on Sunday mornings! Thank you **Masha and Dasha!** Thanks so much to **Kristy Anderson** for being such a wonderful Tour Guide since we started Faith Avenue!

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BUILDING OUR DREAMS

By John Klimko, Jr.

This Sunday

We have a very special morning planned this Sunday for everyone who will be here at Central Avenue. Part of those plans include the lunch that is scheduled after morning worship. We need everyone to remember to bring either 2 vegetables or 1 vegetable and 1 dessert. Please bring all food items down to the Connector kitchen before Bible class starts - we will have folks in the Connector area to help assist with the food items that are brought!

High School Graduates

This is the time of the year when we start preparing for the **“Caroline Deming Scholarship.”** I need the names and e-mail addresses of all of our Central Avenue teens who will be graduating from high school this Spring. Please contact me at johnklimkojr@yahoo.com and I will see that you get a copy of the scholarship application.

MEN’S BREAKFAST AND FELLOWSHIP

All men are invited to the Christian Men’s Fellowship and Breakfast Saturday, February 4th, at the Georgia Christian School Cafeteria at 8:00 a.m. Brother Marvin Greene from the Lake Park Church of Christ will lead the devotion. The cost is your donation. For more information, please call 229-559-7002. Business owners please bring your cards.

MONDAY NIGHT FOR THE MASTER

Monday Night for the Master will meet this Monday night, February 6th, in the Connector, at 6:00 p.m. This group sends out cards of “missing you” and of encouragement.

FAITH AVENUE

Remember to meet downstairs this Sunday, February 5th, during our Sunday School hour to hear **Chet and Jim McDoniel!** We are excited about hearing a wonderful message from them!

We begin a new rotation on Sunday, February 12th. We will be studying Noah. Our new memory verse is **“Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind.”**
Genesis 9:16

Our singing classes are going very well on Wednesday nights! Please join us next Wednesday, February 8th, to be a part of this worship in song.

Again, I want to say thank you to our precious children for their wonderful examples of giving. We had numerous students use all of their saved Bible Bucks to purchase food for the Hungry at Home program! One student had saved 41 Bible Bucks! As before, they purchased all of the food, so we will restock! We at the General Store are very humbled by their generosity!

We are looking forward to Sunday!

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Ryan & Cayla Hughes, on the birth of a son, Bentley Gauge Hughes, born Wednesday, January 25th, weighing 6 lbs., 15 ozs. Proud Grandparents are Winston and Jill Bridges and proud Big Brother is Cayden.

SOUP KITCHEN

The Soup Kitchen at Central will be Saturday, February 4th. If you would like to help be at the building at 11:00 a.m.

RESPONSE

Terri Hundley responded to the invitation Sunday, January 29th, asking for prayers of the church.

VISITATION



Thanks to all who encourage others. The visitation team for **February 5**, is listed below. Members may pick up assignments from the folder on the table in the office hall foyer near the Large Auditorium.

M/M Kevin Boyd
Mrs. Sheree Hudson
Mr. Kerry Morris
Mr. Clarence Paine
Mrs. Lavelle Quinif
M/M Don Seat
Ms. Morris Smith
M/M John Stephenson
M/M Clyde Tomlinson
M/M Leon Weeks

FEEDING THE FLOCK

Our next Feeding The Flock will be Wednesday night, February 8th. The menu will include: Baked Ham, Texas Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, Fruit Salad, Banana Pudding and German Chocolate Cake. Please sign up on the back of your attendance card this Sunday, February 5th, how many in your family will attend.

Nothing to Worry About

The last thing we need to worry about is not having enough. Our cup overflows with blessings.

Let me ask a question—a crucial question. If focusing on our diminishing items leads to envy, what would happen if we focused on the unending items? If awareness of what we don’t have creates jealousy, is it possible that an awareness of our abundance will lead to contentment?

Let’s give it a try and set what happens. Let’s dedicate a few paragraphs to a couple of blessings that, according to the Bible, are overflowing in our lives.

“The more we see our sinfulness, the more we see God’s *abounding grace* forgiving us” Romans 5:30 emphasis mine.)

NURSING HOMES**HERITAGE HOUSE:**

Irene Brown, Jackie Mathis
Olive Scott

PRESBYTERIAN HOME:

Melba Webb
Emma Shaw

FELLOWSHIP HOME:

Sylvia Higgins

BAPTIST VILLAGE:

Lillie Mae Dees

LAKEHAVEN:

Helen Rose

LANGDALE PLACE:

Mildred Southall

WILDEWOOD DOWNS**COLUMBIA, S.C.:**

Phoebie Slocum

CRESTWOOD:

Linda Jones

REMEMBER IN PRAYER**AUGUSTA:** Ealie Herring**CENTRAL MEMBERS:**

Ruth Babb, Jody Copeland, Frank & Kathleen Culpepper, Raymond and Ann S. Dasher, Fannie Dasher, Louise DeLoach, Dorothy Findley, Margaret Hendry, Ted Hundley, Marilyn King, Clarence Paine, Janet Webb, Mary Nell Wells

NOTE: Margaret Fussell's surgery went well on Tuesday. She request no visitors at this time, but cards are welcomed.

FRIENDS & FAMILY:

Julie Mae Barrett, Buck Busby, Roy Cone, Tom Ed Gooden, Darold Graham, Tim Hall, Gloria Hamlen, Stan Harp, Harriette Gray, Bessie Johnson, Anthony Miller, Shirin Rastegar, Bobby Stallings, Elanor Spivey, Debbie Starling, Beverly Strange, Flick Taylor, Gordon & Elaine Teffeteller, Lamar Thompson, Jimmy Tipton, Carl Walker, Larry Youmans

MILITARY: Emily Arnold, Carter Bryan, Skyler Pittman, Johnny Tucker

DAILY PRAYER LIST

February 1: Michael, Billie, Dalton & Madison Page

February 2: Clarence & Joyce Paine

February 3: Mike & Debbie Paine

February 4: Mary Parker

February 5: Zach, Emily, Kye & Brittlynn Parker

February 6: Bill & Delores Parrish

February 7: Charlie & Dianne Parrish

MISSION OF THE WEEK

Troy & Andrea Spradlin
Paraguay, South America
Avenida Sacramento Iglesia de Cristo
Avenida Sacramento 650
C/Espana-Asuncion, Paraguay
Phone: (595) 0981-630-8886
E-Mail: try@pblcoc.org

To abound is to have a surplus, an abundance, an extravagant portion. Should the fish in the Pacific worry that it will run out of ocean? No. Why? The ocean abounds with water. Need the lark be anxious about finding room in the sky to fly? No. The sky abounds with space.

Should the Christian worry that the cup of mercy will run empty? He may. For he may not be aware of God's abounding grace. Are you? Are you aware that the cup God gives you *overflows* with mercy? Or are you afraid your cup will run dry? Your warranty will expire? Are you afraid your mistakes are too great for God's grace?

We can't help but wonder if the apostle Paul had the same fear. Before he was Paul the apostle, he was Saul the murderer. Before he encouraged Christians, he murdered Christians. What would it be like to live with such a past? Did he ever meet children whom he had made orphans? Did their faces haunt his sleep? Did Paul ever ask, "Can God forgive a man like me?"

BIRTHDAYS

February 9: Sara Force

February 10: Peyton Clarke

Fred McCrary

February 12: Jenny Wisenbaker

February 13: Marlin Luke

Tommy Simpson

February 14: Rebekah Colson

Janice Evans

Bret Rogers

The answer to his and our questions is found in a letter he wrote to Timothy: "The grace of our Lord was poured out on me abundantly, along with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 1:14 NIV.)

God is not a miser with his grace. Your cup may be low on cash or clout, but it is overflowing with mercy. You may not have the prime parking place, but you have sufficient pardon. "He will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7.) Your cup overflows with grace.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

All men are invited to the 9th Annual Men's Fellowship Meeting at the Lake City Church of Christ, 6556 SW State Road 47, Lake City, FL, 32025, Saturday, March 3rd. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. The theme will be: "Standing In The Gap." For more information please call, 386-752-6010.

**AT A GLANCE**

February 4: Soup Kitchen

February 5: Chet and Jim McDaniel

February 6: Monday Night For The Master

Tuesday Ladies Bible Class:

Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. in the Connector

Ladies Bible Class in Douglas

Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m., Church Building

Men's Prayer Group:

Tuesdays at 7 am in the Annex

Christian Student Center:

Devotional, Wednesdays at 7:00 pm

ELDERS: Homer Anderson, Kevin Boyd, Byron Brown, Jerry DeLoach, G.R. Holton, Bill Malone, Leon Weeks

MINISTERS: Bryan Jarvis, John Klimko, Jr.

DEACONS: Jay Barfield, Donny Bryan, Jeremy Colson, Mickey DeLoach, Wes Force, Richard Hamlen, Anthony Herring, Ted Hundley, Pendleton Little, Don Locky, Jerry McMullen, Sr., Matt Malone, Chris Prine, John Stephenson, Clyde Tomlinson, Phillip Walker

Church Office:

Leigh Lawlor.....Secretary
Gail DeLoach.....Bulletin
Phone: (229) 242-6115.....Fax:(229) 242-6116
Visit Central on the web.....www.cacoc.com

Central Avenue Church of Christ
304 East Central Avenue
Valdosta, GA 31601-5704

For the Record: January 29, 2012

Class	271
AM Worship	423
PM Worship	225
Mid-week PM	231
Budget	\$12,587
Contribution	\$12,590
Over Budget	\$3

MISSIONS: Brazil, New Zealand, Ukraine, China, Malawi Mozambique, India, Preaching the Gospel (TV), Swainsboro, GA

Central Avenue Church of Christ Family Gatherings

Sunday Bible Class.....9:30am
Worship.....10:30am
Evening Worship.....6:00pm
Wednesday Bible Class.....7:00pm

THE SHEPHERDS VOICE

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters whenever you face trials of many kinds hope, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. (James 1:2-4)

None of us are immune to facing trials in our life. Each one of us will encounter trials and obstacles that place pressure on us either physically, emotionally, financially or spiritually. What can we do when these trials and obstacles come into our lives? How can we prepare ourselves to face difficult challenges? Many times when we approach these hurdles in our life, our goal is to remove them on our own. But have you stopped to consider that maybe that obstacle has a different purpose than what we perceive.

James challenges us to look at hardships in a different light. Many of us don't see anything good when we are experiencing trials. That could be because we can't see beyond the problem. When we are in the middle of a difficult situation, it is normally not a pleasant experience. The attitude needed to face the trials of life does not always make sense to us—it is joy. How do we find joy in difficult times? One answer can be found in Matthew 6: 33 "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...." When we seek the Lord first in our life we will be better able to endure life's trials. We will make better decisions because

of godly wisdom that resides in us, helping us to live a faithful and committed life

Several Bible verses compare the Christian life to running a race (Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; and Acts 20:24). The Christian life is not a sprint but a marathon that requires endurance. The adversity we face is meant to cause us to be able to walk the life of faith with patience, perseverance, and long suffering.

In order to determine how strong our faith is, we need it to be tested. Trials are one of God's ways of increasing our faith and instilling growth and maturity in his children. So take a look at the obstacle in front of you. How is it testing your faith? Is it making you rely and depend more upon God? Have you spent time in prayer asking God to show you what He wants you to learn spiritually through this?

Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. (James 1:12)

We encourage each of you to be present Sunday morning and invite a friend as Chet McDoniel will be with us to speak at 9:30 and his father Jim McDoniel will speak at 10:30. Chet has overcome many obstacles in his life through Christ. He is a motivational speaker and will present an inspiring lesson of hope through sharing his faith.

KB