

# Why Trying To Be A Christian Does not Work

Consecration

When I was a young buck I loved to play basketball. I breathed basketball. 'Obsessed' would not be a word too strong. Unfortunately, I was a short guy playing a tall man's sport. At 5'9", I was unable to achieve a lot of my goals. I was never the leading rebounder. I was never able to dunk the basketball and after severely injuring my left ankle at age 16 I was never able to grab the rim. It wasn't because I didn't try. I jumped and I jumped and I jumped. I told myself over and over just jump higher and you will finally do it. But no amount of effort could overcome the physical limitations that bound me.

I also learned the futility of self-effort in my spiritual life. A Christian is naturally filled with a desire to be Christ-like. But this Christ-like nature cannot be achieved through self-effort. It is especially troubling to watch young Christians who have not yet learned this valuable lesson. They are so sincere in their attempt to pull themselves up by their bootstraps. Many fail to understanding the full plan of salvation of the human soul. Yes, he died and he arose so through us. Christ calls on us to live through him just as he lived through the Father when he took on human flesh. This may be difficult to absorb but read carefully the words of Jesus. *"I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does."* (John 5:19) Jesus, in his humanity, never succumbed to the temptation to be self-sufficient. He leaned, not just heavily but entirely, on the Father for all that he said and did. Christ was the vessel containing the Living Water through which God carried himself to fallen man.

Jesus said, *"For I sanctify myself that they too may be truly sanctified."* (John 17:19) This doesn't refer to the cleansing of a sinful nature. Christ knew no sin. This means that he was consecrated to the will of his Father. He was totally and utterly dependent upon him. He is teaching us that we are too weak and frail to accomplish anything in our own effort. There is no hope whatsoever that we will ever be able to grab the rim unless he fills us with his strength, unless our feeble efforts that we might have life. But there is more, He lives so that he might live through us. Our sanctification is a preparation of the soul so that not only might we have life, but that we might experience a more abundant life, indeed, the very life of Christ living are replaced by a trust in him to do something miraculous through us.

Jesus' life and ministry would have been an utter failure had he tried to perform in his own strength. He always called upon the Father for wisdom, strength and stamina. He teaches us through his example that we are utterly helpless when we lean upon our own strength. Jesus chose beautiful prose to explain this, *"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do*

*nothing."* (John 15:5) Just as Christ needed the Father we need the Son. We are nothing. We are capable of nothing and we have no purpose without Christ. Christ alone provides meaning for our lives. What was the Father able to do through the Son? We have yet to see the infinite amount that he has done. What might the Son do through us? There is no limit if we would remove doubt and disobedience.

How might we experience this fullness of his indwelling? There is no need to get too complicated here. *"The just shall live by faith."* (Romans 1:17) It is this simple faith that pulls us up out of the muck of doubt. It is faith that gives us boldness when asked to perform a task we know would be impossible for us without the indwelling Christ. It is faith that brings light to our dark days. That restores sweetness to our lives when they are poisoned with bitterness.

Have you ever seen anyone suffer more than you thought a person could endure? Several examples come to mind. When I attended a Bible College in eastern Kentucky I was astonished at the spiritual depth of some of my elderly instructors. I wanted so much to experience the depth in Christ that they experienced. But I was astonished when I discovered what some of these Christian warriors had been through. Ms. Nettie Myers comes to mind. She was a young teacher there at the fledgling school in the beginning of the last century. A flash flood swept through the 'hollow' where she and her family lived. Thirty feet of water swept the whole family downstream. Her husband and all her sons perished and she alone survived. It was a tragedy many struggle to explain. But the miracle was yet to follow. Ms. Myers harbored no bitterness. She invited Christ to indwell within her and was thus enabled to live out a long and happy life saturated with the sweetness of Christ.

Have you come upon a problem in your life that seems to have no solution? Is there a situation that seems only to bring you misery? Is your life a darkness yearning for light, a bitterness yearning for sweetness? I bought a Hyosung scooter a couple years ago because it gives me nearly 70 miles to a gallon. Imagine how foolish it would be were I to buy the scooter and push it everywhere I go. I could save a lot of gas money but the effort would kill me. When we as Christians have been redeemed by the blood of Christ, he imparts unto us his Spirit. In a sense, he puts within us an engine. How foolish we are when we spend our own effort in an attempt to achieve a certain level of Christianity. We will never reach our goal. The effort will destroy us. But, if we use the engine within, if we draw on the power of the Indwelling Spirit we will discover that we *"can do all things through Christ which strengthens us."* (Philippians 4:13)

By Kevin Probst

(From Christianarticles.net)

firstBaptistchurch April 27th, 2011

# Lifegroup prayer and praise

**Bruce Young**, pastor of FBC in Boise has a 5-bypass on Monday. Let's remember **Bruce and Carmen** in our prayers.

Please pray for **Ilene Johnson** who was taken to Prov. Hospital and has surgery scheduled for this Thursday. ~**Dick Johnson**

We have several members of FBC that need major healing. Please take these unspoken request to the Throne of God.

**Chris and Crystal Hill** ask for prayer for a pregnancy that is as smooth as her first one.

Pray for relief from anxiety attacks and that my cold would not go into pneumonia. ~**Sharon Young**

Praise God for answered prayer. ~**Arlan and Hyesook**  
My **mom, Ruth Clark** needs relief from pain in her hip and back, she is facing surgery in May. Please pray for her. ~**Julie Jodock**

**Carol Kelly** asks for prayer for wisdom.

Please pray for my mom to know Christ and that she would be healed. ~**Darcy Stanyo**

Please pray for my new grandson, **Kenan McFeeley**, he has low blood sugar, he is out of NICU but this is still a problem for him. ~**Elna Olson**

Please pray for **Eva LaStrange**, she is going in to have total knee replacement on May 3rd.

**Rose Toscano** needs prayer for a new job and that her food stamp allotment will be continued.

Can you please keep praying for my husband's friend **Les Smith and Kelly**, they are still going through their cancer treatments.

Please pray for **Brooklyn McCormick**.

**Marc Owenby** asked for prayer for a friend and family, who is undergoing cancer treatment.

**Donna Teachworth** has asked for prayer for her very dear friends **Buddy & Cheryl Midkiff**, **Buddy** has been diagnosed with stage 4 Metastatic Melanoma in his liver and lungs.

Please continue to pray for **Jeanne Gilman** as she continues to heal from pneumonia.

**Dave Foley** had his first round of chemo, pray that the tumors shrink and we all stay positive, that would be a huge help.

## NURSERY WISH LIST

Batteries: AAA, AA, C & D  
2 Contoured changing pads  
Diaper Genie II & refills  
Wipes  
Plastic Baby Gate  
Extra clothes for Toddlers—Preschool  
Bassinet and bedding for bassinette

*Happy Birthday to...*

Michael Kinsman, April 28th

Dee Riddell April 30th, Lynne Harpell and Leona Holttum on May 1st; Karen Erickson May 2nd; Amy St. Clair May 3rd.

# Pray for our Military

- **John Schwartz**—in Afghanistan—**Robin Schwartz** stateside in Everett.
- **Jason Peery**—Oregon National Guard—heading to Iraq for a year, brother of Jennifer.
- **Jonathan Michaels Estrella**—son of Sharon Boswell.
- **Jason Bjazevich**—Megan Owenby's husband—Army Special Forces— Stationed in N. Carolina.
- **Scott Harpell**—son of Brian & Lynne—Stationed at Fort Carson, CO.
- **Aaron Weston**—nephew of Ken and Kathy—Stationed in San Diego.
- **Eric Schmidt** — son of Gene and Pat Schmidt — Camp Fallujah, Iraq.
- **Benjamin Lagonia**—dear friend of the Naylor family—stationed in Manitoba.
- **Brett Love**—grandson of Wilma—Army National Guard—Serving at home.
- **Christian Chmielewski**—nephew of JoAnn Couturie' - in the Marines.
- **ENS Andrew E. Timpner** (fiancé to Christin Suthard) on deployment with USS Momsen.
- **Devin Abbitt**—nephew of Paul Abbitt - Marine, stateside.
- **Duane Neyens** brother to Kathy Chapman—Army National Guard —is back at his home base in So.CA.
- **Philip Ankney**-LCPL Afghanistan Cousin of MaryAnn Peterson.
- **Jeffrey Lillard**—son of Barbara Lillard — Srg. In Army, Stationed at Fort Lewis.
- **Aaron Chmielewski**—joined the Marines. Nephew of JoAnn Couturie
- **Shawn Berland**—deploying for 6 months
- **Andrew Sustaita**—serving on board the USS Abraham Lincoln



# Lifegroup Happenings

## all in the family

by *florence miller*

**Deanna Baird's husband, Robin**, will be undergoing tests April 25 & 26 and will have open Heart Surgery on Thursday, April 28th. Please pray for successful tests, surgery and recovery and peace and comfort for both of us. Thank you.

**Emma Benner's** son, John (56) from Alaska, fell, breaking both the tibia and fibula in his leg. After surgery, the orders were that he should be off his foot for twelve weeks. However, John was scheduled to be down here with Emma for Mother's Day and a planned memorial for his sister. At this date, the doctor is saying that he can probably still travel. Emma's prayers are for that to happen!

**Ernest Hastings** came through his heart valve replacement o.k. but then had trouble with his kidneys and was placed on a slow dialysis system for awhile. Fortunately he is off that, doing well and possibly going home this weekend. There he will have nurses visiting him as he convalesces. Keep praying for him!

**Edra Richardson's** little dog has a mind of its own and on leash, tugged one way while Edie the other, causing her to fall on her face. To make matters worse, she is now in bed with, possibly, the flu.

There are PRAISES! as **Jeanne Gillman** is improving; dressing in her own clothes and going to meals in the dining room rehab facility. She is still on her physical therapy routines. As she slowly recuperates, there is no word yet about when she might be able to go home.

Praises too for **Ralph and Shirley Schapler** as they recover from their illnesses. Shirley reports that Ralph is doing fine, with Providence Health Care nurses visiting often. Shirley says she has progressed from the flu, to bronchitis to acute sinusitis to currently, her ears being "plugged" but that she hopes to be in church on Sunday.

**Operation Christmas Child!** We're gathering a team to get this year's program going, and we'd like to invite YOU to help! If you're interested in knowing how you can be involved, contact Pat Alvarez at [palvarez99@comcast.net](mailto:palvarez99@comcast.net).

**Eva LaStrange** is going in to have total knee replacement on May 3rd at Colby, she will be staying for three days and then they decide whether she goes home or to rehab. She votes for home!

## SAM UPDATE:

**Board Meeting** - May 2 - 1:00 p.m.

**SAM Luncheon** - May 6, 11:30 a.m. Last chance to make your reservation!

Unfortunately our planned program with Bronn Journey will not be available but our resourceful program chairman Wilma Love has arranged an interesting speaker.

**Trip - May 7th** - 1:15 p.m. Bus leaving the parking lot for the trip to the Leights Fantastic Vaudeville show.

Offering - 4-24-11

\$11,244.19

\*\*\*Adult attendance: 9:00am 187 & 10:30am 366

\*\*\*Children: 9am 8 + 6 — 10:30am 30 + 11

\*\*\*Elementary: 9am 21 + 6 — 10:30 am NA + NA

# Lifegroup Contributing Opportunities

## Newcomer's Dessert

Let's Get Acquainted!

Sunday, May 15th

6:00-7:00 pm

Pacific Room

First Baptist Church, Everett

Please RSVP | office@fbc-everett.org



## VBS 2011 NEED LIST:

**T-shirts - L or XL |white/new/clean**

**Also - solid light colored fabric**

**SAM still needs more books for the bookstore.**

## We have the plants available for purchase:

- ◆ 11 Hydrangeas, assorted colors, 6 inch pots - \$20.00 each
- ◆ 3 yellow Bromeliad plants in 6 inch pots - \$18.00 each
- ◆ 2 rose pink—small Callas in 6 in pots - \$20.00 each
- ◆ 12 Palms in 10 inch pots - \$10.00 each
- ◆ Ornamental grasses [red and green] in 4" pots - \$8.00 each

Please contact Ruelyn to reserve and pay for your plants. Make checks out to First Baptist Church. Contact Ruelyn Nelson @ 425-397-9239 or [ruelyn@frontier.com](mailto:ruelyn@frontier.com). Thanks so much!

### USHER CAPTAIN 2011:

April—Darrell Olson  
Luckey Elkins

May—Pete Sontra  
Craig Reisen

### COFFEE HOUR Schedule

May 1st  
Bill Erickson  
Clipper Class

May 8th  
Frank Riddell  
Lake Stevens Lifegroup

May 15th  
Deanna Baird  
Life Issues Lifegroup

May 22nd  
Christen Weller-Lanning  
Single Moms Lifegroup



Ladies, join us for breakfast a time to "flock together"

Price: \$4.00

Please sign-up so we may reserve a place for you!

Midge Ellis - 425-252-6233

Ruelyn Nelson - 425-397-9239

Childcare available on request.

Breakfast - Saturday, May 14th, 9-11 am

**\*Greeters needed Men & Women: call Carol Kelly, 425.210.8595.**