

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY REMINDER

Volume XV

November 10, 2019

Number 43

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!
Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
6:30 p.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Volunteer Needed!
Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!
Wed. Evening Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White
Cradle Roll 2: Volunteer Needed!

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of November 3, 2019

Sunday School ----- 15
Sunday Morning Service ----- 32
Sunday Evening Service ----- 19
Wed. Evening Service, 11/06/19 ----- 9

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

- Week of November 3, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 928.80
Total Received for Week of 11/03/19: \$ 749.04

- Week of October 27, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 150.25
Total Received for Week of 10/27/19: \$ 150.25

- Week of October 20, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 709.04
Auditorium Air Conditioning Repair Fund ----- \$ 40.00
Total Received for Week of 10/20/19: \$ 749.04

- Week of October 13, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,133.13
Auditorium Air Conditioning Repair Fund ----- \$ 117.09
Total Received for Week of 10/13/19: \$ 1,250.22

- Week of October 6, 2019 -

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,678.00
Auditorium Air Conditioning Repair Fund ----- \$ 70.00
Total Received for Week of 10/06/19: \$ 1,748.00

Average amount of Undesignated Offerings needed to operate the church EACH WEEK, as a minimum = \$ 1,400.00



AUDITORIUM AIR CONDITIONER REPAIR FUND

Total Repair Cost, unit repaired 05/17/19 ----- \$ 4,800.00
Amount received thusfar ----- \$ 1,300.47
TOTAL AMOUNT STILL NEEDED TO PAY OFF: \$ 3,499.53

Thank You For Your Generous Help With This Need!

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE SAVED

1. Admit that you are a sinner.
2. Admit that God says all sins must be paid for.
3. Accept the fact that Christ took upon Himself the suffering necessary to pay for all your sins.
4. You must change your mind about sin and sinning (God calls this repentance).
5. By an act of your will, accept by faith the Lord Jesus Christ, who can save you from the penalty of sin. Then, tell God about this in a simple prayer. Believe that God keeps His promise to save you, and thank Him for His salvation.



Please Remember To Be Faithful To Give!

As with everything else, the costs of keeping a church going never go down - they always go *up*. Bills wait for no one, and churches are no exception to this. An extra, sacrificial gift today by everyone present would go a long way...

We encourage all of our membership to practice obedience to God by being faithful every payday to give back to Him His tithe (10%). *If every family in our church would practice this one simple discipline, we would never have weeks where we have to put off paying some bills until the following week!*

Everything is expensive, especially for a small church like ours, but ours is a BIG God, and He LOVES to bless His children when they are obedient to Him!

If you are already a tither, we thank you, and encourage you to also give offerings as well. If you're currently not tithing, won't you please start *today* - OK? Thank you.

Church Directory

Todd W. White ----- Pastor
Mickie Shatwell ----- Pianist
Lois Mae Floyd ----- Pianist/ Organist
Don Diehl ----- Greeter
Larry Byars ----- S.S. Teacher
Larry & Mary Byars, Don Diehl, Susan Strain ----- Outreach
Bertha Segebart ----- Custodian
Flowers ----- Shirley White



Contemplative Spirituality: Dancing with Demons

by Evangelist David Cloud
(continued from last week)

Some of the contemplatives do give warnings about the potential for spiritual delusion, but their warnings are ineffectual.

Richard Foster warns that contemplative prayer is “entering deeply into the spiritual realm,” and he says that not everyone is ready and equipped to enter into the “all embracing silence” of contemplative prayer (p. 156). He admits that there is the possibility of meeting dark powers, but his suggested solution to this danger is exceedingly shallow and unscriptural. He recommends that practitioners ask “God to surround us with the light of His protection” (Celebration of Discipline, 1978, p. 23). He suggests the following prayer: “All dark and evil spirits must now leave” (Prayer: Finding the Heart’s True Home, 1992, p. 157).

It is not enough to pray that God will protect us from spiritual danger; we must obey His Word. If we pursue practices that are contrary to Scripture, all the prayer mantras in the world will not keep us from the evil that we will experience there! To pray for protection and then walk in disobedience is not faith but presumption. In such a situation, a prayer of protection is no more effective than holding a crucifix or fingering prayer beads.

Roger Oakland wisely observes: “I wonder if all these Christians who now practice contemplative prayer are following Foster’s advice. Whether they are or not, they have put themselves in spiritual harm’s way. Nowhere in Scripture are we required to pray a prayer of protection before we pray. The fact that Foster recognizes contemplative prayer is dangerous and opens the door to the fallen spirit world is very revealing. What is this - praying to the God of the Bible but instead reaching demons? Maybe contemplative prayer should be renamed contemplative terror. ... Foster admits that contemplative prayer is dangerous and will possibly take the participant into demonic realms, but he gives a disclaimer saying not everyone is ready for it. My question is, who is ready, and how will they know they are ready? What about all the young people in the emerging church movement? Are they ready? Or are they going into demonic altered states of consciousness completely unaware?” (Faith Undone, pp. 99, 100).

The Roman Catholic contemplative monk **John Michael Talbot** gives an even stronger warning about the potential danger of contemplative prayer. He says:

“IT CAN BE MOST DESTRUCTIVE IF USED UNWISELY. I CAN ALMOST PROMISE THAT THOSE WHO UNDERTAKE THIS STUDY ALONE WITHOUT PROPER GUIDANCE, AND GROUNDING IN CATHOLIC CHRISTIANITY, WILL FIND THEMSELVES QUESTIONING THEIR OWN FAITH TO THE POINT OF LOSING IT. SOME MAY FIND THEMSELVES SPIRITUALLY LOST. IT HAS HAPPENED TO MANY. For this reason, we do not take the newer members of The Brothers and Sisters of Charity through this material in any depth as part of their formation, but stick squarely to overt Catholic spirituality and prayer teachings. I would not recommend too much integration of these things without proper guidance for those newer to the Catholic or Christian faith” (Talbot, “Many Religions, One God,” Oct. 22, 1999).

Talbot thus recognizes the extreme danger of contemplative practices, yet he thinks he is capable of using them without being harmed by them. He should listen to the words of Scripture: **“Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners” (First Corinthians 15:33).**

I AM CONVINCED THAT THOSE WHO PARTICIPATE IN SUCH THINGS OPEN THEMSELVES UP TO DEMONIC INFLUENCE.

(continued inside)

David Hunt sounds an important warning about visualizing prayer. He gives the example of a man who visualized Jesus and was surprised when “Jesus” began to interact with him.

“I began to visualize myself as a boy of eight. ‘Now see if you can imagine Jesus appearing,’ [the seminar leader] instructed. ‘Let Him walk toward you.’ Much to my amazement Jesus moved slowly toward me out of that dark playground. He began to extend His hands toward me in a loving, accepting manner. **INO LONGER WAS CREATING THE SCENE.** The figure of Christ reached over and lifted the bundle from my back. And He did so with such forcefulness that I literally sprang from the pew” (Robert L. Wise, “Healing of the Memories: A Prayer Therapy for You,” Christian Life, July 1984, pp. 63-64, quoted from Hunt, The Occult Invasion).

Hunt observes:

“That this was more than imagination is clear. The one who originally visualized the image of ‘Jesus’ was surprised when it suddenly took on a character of its own and he realized that he was no longer creating the image. This ‘Jesus’ had its own life and personality. There can be no doubt that real contact had been made with the spirit world. We may be equally certain that this being was not the real Jesus Christ. No one can call Him from the right hand of the Father in heaven to put in a personal appearance. The entity could only have been a demonic spirit masquerading as ‘Jesus’” (The Occult Invasion, “Imagination and Visualization”).

Morton Kelsey taught the use of visualization and exhorted his readers not to fear when the visualizations took on a life of their own! He quoted from **Carl Jung**, who communicated with a spirit guide throughout his life:

“In the same way, when you concentrate on a mental picture, **IT BEGINS TO STIR**, the image becomes enriched by details, it moves and develops. Each time, naturally, you mistrust it and have the idea that you have just made it up, that it is merely your own invention” (Jung, Analytical Psychology, quoted in Kelsey, The Other Side of Silence, p. 226).

Kelsey then comments:

“It is usually not too difficult for most people to start the process by concentrating on something graphic. The hard part comes in realizing **THAT SOMETHING COULD MOVE UNEXPECTEDLY INSIDE US WITHOUT OUR CONSCIOUS DIRECTION.** That is why it is so vital in developing imagination, meditation, or contemplation **TO REALIZE THAT OUR EGO IS NOT THE ONLY FORCE OPERATING WITHIN US**” (The Other Side of Silence, p. 227).

Since Kelsey didn’t believe the Bible, viewing it largely as myth, he didn’t understand that when images “stir” and “move unexpectedly” and take on a life of their own it is because one has entered the realm of the demonic.

Consider the practice of guided visualization. A leader instructs the practitioners to get comfortable and then to do something like the following:

“Imagine yourself walking down a road. It’s the path of your life. Imagine what the path looks like. Is it curvy? Or straight? Hilly? Flat? Is it wide or narrow, surrounded by trees or by fields? You look down. Is the path rocky? Sandy? Is it dirt? Maybe it’s paved. What does it feel like under your feet? And up ahead, what’s in your path? Does it look clear or are there hurdles in your way? Something is in your hands. You’ve been carrying it a long time--it’s something you brought with you, in your spirit, up to camp. Look at it. What does it look like? What does it feel like in your hands? Is it hot? Cold? Warm? Is it smooth? Prickly? Sharp? Rough? Is it heavy or light?

“Now look up ahead. A figure is moving toward you. You can’t quite make out who it is, but he seems to know you and his pace quickens as he recognizes you. Now you can see--it’s Jesus! He’s coming closer. What’s the expression on his face as he walks toward you? How do you feel? He says a word of greeting to you. What does he say? How do you feel? Do you say anything back?

“Now Jesus is standing in front of you. What does he say? Now he’s holding his hands out - he wants you to put what’s in your hands into his hands. How does it feel as the object leaves your hands? Do you say anything to Jesus?

“Now you and Jesus start to walk together - he’s holding the object of yours. As the two of you walk along, what do you talk about? Imagine the conversation” (Tony Jones, The Sacred Way, pp. 83, 84).

This is either pure fantasy and therefore of no value, or it moves into the realm of the occult. Tony Jones describes how that Jesus allegedly appeared to him during one such episode and spoke to him face to face (The Sacred Way, p. 79).

Al Dager of Media Spotlight gives a discerning warning about the extreme danger of contemplative practices:

“Unfortunately, all these exercises serve to do is open the person up to demonic influences that assuage his or her conscience with a feeling of euphoria and even ‘love’ emanating from the presence that has invaded their consciousness. This euphoria is then believed to validate that the person is on the right spiritual path. It may result in visions, out-of-body experiences, stigmata, levitation, even healings and other apparent miracles.”

The guided prayer techniques are exactly the same as the techniques I was taught by disciples of the Hindu guru Paramahansa Yogananda before I was converted. We were supposed to use these techniques to view events in our past lives. The yogic meditation led me into dark realms farther and farther from the holy God of the Bible, the God who is light and in whom “is no darkness at all” (I John 1:5). I repented of it completely after I came to Christ. I wrote to the Self-Realization Fellowship Society, testified to them of my Christian conversion, and asked them to drop my name from their rolls.

Emergent leader **Nanette Sawyer** unwittingly gives a frightful testimony along this line. She said that she is a Christian (of the

liberal brand) because she was taught meditation techniques by a Hindu. She said that while “sitting in meditation, in a technique similar to what Christians call Centering Prayer, I encountered love that is unconditional, yet it called me to responsible action in my life” (An Emergent Manifesto of Hope, p. 44). This occurred AFTER she had rejected biblical Christianity and the gospel that Jesus died for our sins (p. 43). She said that she found love and Jesus through Hindu meditation, but it was not the Jesus of the Bible nor was it the love of God as described in the Bible. It was another gospel, another Jesus, and another spirit (II Cor. 11:4). John warned, **“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (I John 4:1)**, and the only sure way to try the spirits is to test them by the Bible. As for true love, John defined that, too. **“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous” (I John 5:3).**

THE FACT THAT ITS PRACTITIONERS CALL CONTEMPLATIVE SPIRITUALITY “DARKNESS” IS A LOUD WARNING TO THOSE WHO HAVE EARS TO HEAR.

- continued next week



Lest We Forget. . .

A flag is the emblem of sovereignty - a symbol and guarantee of protection. Every nation and people are proud of the flag of their country.

July 3, 2010 England, for a thousand years boasts her Red flag and Cross of St. George; France glories in her Tri-color and Imperial Eagle; ours, the “Star-spangled Banner,” far more beautiful than they - this dear old flag! - the sun in heaven never looked down on so proud a banner of beauty and glory.

Men of the Black Brigade, rally around it! Assert your manhood, be loyal to duty, be obedient, hopeful, patient.

Slavery will soon die; the slaveholders’ rebellion, accursed of God and man, will shortly and miserably perish.

There will then be, through all the coming ages, in very truth, a land of the free - one country, one flag, one destiny.

I charge you, Men of the Black Brigade of Cincinnati, remember that for you, and for me, and for your children, and your children’s children, there is but one Flag, as there is but one Bible, and one God, the Father of us all.

- James Lupton, Acting Camp Commandant
presenting the National flag to
The Cincinnati Black Brigade
September 4, 1862

TODAY, WE WILL OBSERVE THE ORDINANCE OF



- AT THE END OF THE MORNING SERVICE

GALLANT MEN

“Down through the years there have been men, brave gallant men who have died that others might be free.

And even now they do it still. Brave gallant men know that someone must and so they will.

Oh gallant men have built us a nation passed us a torch of flame. Let us hold it high and light up the sky with praise of our gallant men.”

