

SOUTH HEIGHTS BAPTIST'S WEEKLY REMINDER

Volume XIX

December 28, 2014

Number 45

John Wesley's Prayer for the New Year -

Each year, John Wesley - the founder of Methodism - would begin the New Year with a "Covenant Service." The heart of the service, focused in the Covenant Prayer, requires persons to commit themselves to God. Scriptures read at this service included Deuteronomy 31: 9-13, Jeremiah 31: 31-34, Psalm 50, and John 15: 1-8. The Prayer of Invitation from this service is as follows:



Commit yourselves to Christ as his servants. Give yourselves to him, that you may belong to him. Christ has many services to be done. Some are more easy and honorable, others are more difficult and disgraceful. Some are suitable to our inclinations and interests, others are contrary to both. In some we may please Christ and please ourselves. But then there are other works where we cannot please Christ except by denying ourselves. It is necessary, therefore, that we consider what it means to be a servant of Christ. Let us, therefore, go

to Christ, and pray:

Let me be your servant, under your command. I will no longer be my own. I will give up myself to your will in all things.

Lord, make me what you will. I put myself fully into your hands: put me to doing, put me to suffering, let me be employed for you, or laid aside for you, let me be full, let me be empty, let me have all things, let me have nothing.

I freely and with a willing heart give it all to your pleasure and disposal.

I do here covenant with you, O Christ, to take my lot with you as it may fall.

Through your grace I promise that neither life nor death shall part me from you.

I make this covenant with you, O God, without guile or reservation.

If any falsehood should be in it, guide me and help me to set it aright.

Mighty God, let this covenant I have made on earth be ratified in heaven

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

- John Wesley, circa 1780

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.**

NURSERY MINISTRY WORKERS FOR THIS WEEK

10:50 a.m. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Shirley White
Cradle Roll 2: Kelsey Moreno
6:30 P.M. Service ----- Cradle Roll 1: Kristi Hooper
Cradle Roll 2: Andrea Hooper

AND THE PEOPLE CAME...

Week of December 21, 2014

Sunday School ----- 19
Sunday Morning Service ----- 33
Sunday Evening Service ----- 21

AND THE PEOPLE GAVE...

Week of December 21, 2014

Undesignated Tithes & Offerings ----- \$ 1,436.40
Love Offering, Rowley Family ----- \$ 378.00
Love Offering, Pastor & Family ----- \$ 200.00
Total Received for Week of 12/21/14: \$ 2,014.40

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

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
Dickie Eberle ----- Greeter, Custodian
Shayne Hooper, Todd W. White ----- S.S. Teachers
Larry & Mary Byars, Ella Allen ----- Outreach
Flowers ----- Shirley White, Charity Crawford

**OUR
CHRISTMAS
MISSIONARY
OFFERING FOR
THE ROWLEY
FAMILY WAS
\$378.00!!!!**

**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR
HELP!**



THE ROWLEY'S
*Jeremy and Leslie, Jillian (5),
Evan (3), and Edison (1)*

INSURANCE FUND REPORT FOR DEC., 2014:

Monthly Requirement ----- \$ 329.66
Amount Received Thusfar During Dec., 2014 ----- \$ 0.00
Amount STILL NEEDED by Jan. 5, 2015: - \$ 329.66

NEWS OF INTEREST TO CHRISTIANS

• **LEIGHTON FORD PROMOTING ROMAN CATHOLIC CONTEMPLATIVE MYSTICISM** - Leighton Ford, Billy Graham's brother-in-law, is one of the many evangelicals who are promoting contemplative prayer.

Consider his 2008 book **The Attentive Life**. He recommends mindless centering prayer whereby the practitioner repeats a sacred word or mantra and lets go of his thoughts. He recommends the writings and practices of Roman Catholics, including Ignatius Loyola, co-founder of the Jesuits, G.K. Chesterton, Julian of Norwich, Henri Nouwen, "Saint" Benedict, Mother Teresa, Gerald Hopkins, John Cassian, Thomas Aquinas, Thomas Keating, Thomas Merton (who was a Buddhist and a Catholic monk), Hilary of Tours, and Catherine of Siena.

Leighton Ford wrote the forward to Ruth Barton's 2008 contemplative book **Strengthening the Soul of Your Leadership**.

He recommends **The Music of Silence** by David Steindl-Rast and Sharon Lebell. Steindl-Rast is not only a Catholic monk, laden down with Catholic heresies, he is a religious syncretist. Steindl-Rast says, *"Envision the great religious traditions arranged on the circumference of a circle. At their mystical core they all say the same thing, but with different emphasis"* ("Heroic Virtue," Gnosis, Summer 1992). Beginning in 1967, following the Second Vatican Council, Steindl-Rast became heavily involved with Catholic-Buddhist interfaith dialogue and studied under four Zen Buddhist masters. He came to believe that Catholics and Buddhists are communing with the same God and wrote **The Ground We Share: Buddhist and Christian Practice**. This was co-authored by Zen Buddhist Robert Aitken Roshi. Steindl-Rast is involved with the **Network for Grateful Living**, which is New Age organization dedicated to the goal of creating a new world through such things as contemplative mysticism, visualization, interfaith dialogue, environmentalism, developing an awareness of angels, and the Buddhist concept of flowing gratefully with the moment and being one with the "ground of Being."

Leighton Ford and countless others who are playing around with contemplative prayer are swimming in the most dangerous spiritual waters imaginable.

• **HE WALKS ON WATER** - The following is from CreationMoments.com, November 5, 2014:

"Whenever water is in contact with air, one of the most delicate structures in the universe is created. That structure is called surface tension. Surface tension is created because water molecules touching the air move just a little bit closer to one another, forming a delicate "skin" on the water. The water strider is one of the very few insects that can actually walk upon this delicate and extremely thin "skin" formed by surface tension. However, should he need to, he can dive right through it. Each of his six legs ends in a foot looking something like a snowshoe that

spreads his weight on the water surface. The bottom of each foot is covered with sensitive hairs and a tiny oil gland to prevent the hairs from getting wet. Those hairs are also very sensitive to vibrations so that the water strider knows who is beneath him as he skates across the surface. Unlike most other insects, the strider is actually covered with hairs, and these provide for flotation when he dives for food.

Only the Creator of all things could have known about surface tension and design a creature that can literally walk on water. Doesn't He deserve our worship and praise, especially since He did not even spare the life of His only Son to save us when we were lost to Him?"

• **THE UGLY TRUTH OF POST-ABORTION SYNDROME** - The following is excerpted from "The Ugly Truth of Post-Abortion Syndrome: Testimony from Real Women Who Aborted Their Babies," Breitbart.com, Dec. 3, 2014:

"In 2007, the New York Times stated that scientific evidence 'strongly shows that abortion does not increase the risk of depression, drug abuse or any other psychological problem.' This confident assertion--already dubious when it was made--is being overwhelmed by reams of evidence suggesting the contrary: that abortion leaves a discernible wake of sorrow, suffering, and devastation. Along with the disturbing statistics, however, is the compelling testimony of real women who have aborted their children and of what happened to their lives as a result. Though abortion does often provide a short-term solution to real problems pregnant women face, thus granting some immediate relief, the myth that women come out of abortion psychologically unscathed now seems unsustainable. ...

Lori Nerad ... former national president of **Women Exploited by Abortion** ... says she still wakes up in the middle of the night, thinking she hears a baby crying. *'And I still have nightmares in which I am forced to watch my baby being ripped apart in front of me. I simply miss my baby. I constantly wake up wanting to nurse my child, wanting to hold my child. And that's something the doctor never told me I would experience,'* she said.

Katrina Fernandez makes no bones about the reality of what she did. *'I killed two of my children,'* she said, *'robbed my parents of grand-children, and murdered my son's siblings.'* She says that she would have given anything for someone to simply tell her: **'You don't have to do this.'**

The abortions also took a toll on Fernandez's life and mental health, a factor often overlooked in debate regarding abortion. ... *'The suffering I've endured and caused others is immeasurable and the guilt almost drove me suicidal. I am a coward in every way,'* she said. *And yet now, convinced that silence fails women who need encouragement to carry their babies to term, Fernandez declares: 'I refuse to be a coward anymore.'"*

• **SCIENTISTS STORE MASSIVE AMOUNTS OF INFORMATION ON DNA THROUGH THE PROCESS OF BLIND CHANCE** - Two scientists have successfully stored 700

terabytes of data on DNA, including a copy of a multimedia book, breaking the previous record by a thousand times.

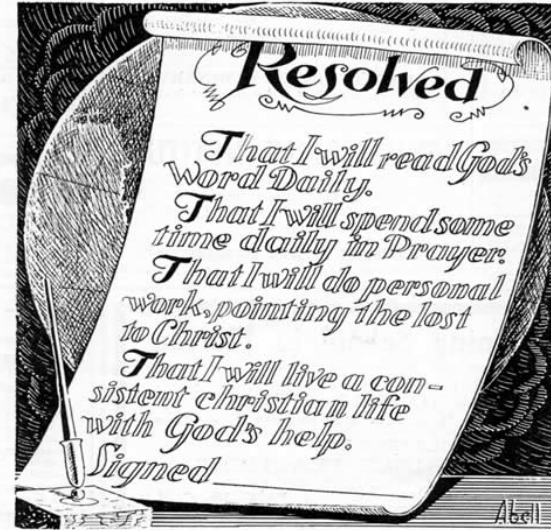
George Church and Sriram Kosuri of the **Wyss Institute at the Harvard Medical School** stored this massive amount of information on about one gram of DNA ("Harvard cracks DNA storage," Extreme Tech, Aug. 17, 2012). The stored information is equivalent to 233 3TB hard drives. As a test, the scientists made 70 billion copies of the DNA containing the information. They can foresee the day when *"the entirety of human knowledge--every book, uttered word, and funny cat video--can be stored in a few hundred kilos of DNA."*

Now, let us address the title of this report: "Scientists Store Massive Amounts of Information on DNA through the Process of Blind Chance." Of course, that is a joke. Church's and Kosuri's wonderful achievement was accomplished via an extremely complicated process through the application of intelligence, and they doubtless pride themselves in the gifting and learning that allowed them to accomplish this.

We would like to ask them one question: *"Could your achievement, which is far less complex than processes within the self-replicating living cell, have been accomplished by the forces of unintelligent blind chance?"*

We will be waiting for that answer.

• **LYING, SEX-CRAZED GENERATION MAKES JESUS IN ITS OWN IMAGE** - **The Family Guy**, a television cartoon, blasphemously depicts Jesus as a sex-crazed liar in "The 2,000-year-old Virgin," which aired this month. The creator of the program, Seth MacFarlane, has said in interviews: *"I'm an atheist. I consider myself a critical thinker, and it fascinates me that in the 21st century most people still believe in, as George Carlin puts it, 'the invisible man living in the sky.' ... Do I have that much contempt for Christianity? I guess maybe I do. ... The Big Bang has got a lot of support, live with it"* ("Family Guy,"



ChristianityToday.com, Dec. 8, 2014). Actually, the Big Bang is being shot through with holes by evolutionary scientists themselves. There is **zero** scientific evidence that a complex universe could result from any kind of bang. As for the "invisible man living in the sky," this is an atheist's straw man. I don't know anyone who believes in such a thing. The God revealed in Scripture is an Almighty, eternal God. The evidence for this God is written everywhere in the creation, from the laws of physics to the living cell. As for atheism, it is so ridiculous to disbelieve in God in the face of the overwhelming evidence for His existence that the Bible twice calls such a person a fool. *"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psalm 14:1; 53:1)*. The Bible even explains why the fool denies God. He wants to live according to his own sinful lusts. *"They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good."* As for evidence of the Bible's divine inspiration, one of these is the fact that it prophesied the coming of mockers like MacFarlane 2,000 years ago. *"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation" (II Peter 3:3-4)*.

• **GETTYS GLAD FOR HARD ROCK RENDITIONS OF THEIR SONGS** - *Keith and Kristyn Getty's* "contemporary hymns" are used widely among "traditional, non-contemporary" churches, because they are considered relatively conservative and safe.

At least eight of their songs are included in **Majesty Music's Rejoice Hymns**. Twenty-nine of their songs are featured in **Hymns Modern and Ancient**, compiled by Fred Coleman, head of Bob Jones University's Department of Church Music. Both Temple Baptist Church and Lancaster Baptist Church, two of the largest independent Baptist churches, perform Getty material.

While the Getty's worship music is fairly conservative in its rhythm, they are not opposed to rock & roll. They themselves rock pretty hard at some venues.

And while they don't write hard rock worship songs, they don't speak against this, either. In fact, Keith Getty recently said that he is glad for edgy, rocking renditions of his music by artists such as Newsboys, Ricky Skaggs, Owl City, Alison Krauss, and Natalie Grant, because "it is an honor" for him to witness popular modern musicians record them, and "it's also interesting to hear their interpretation of it and useful for the song because it helps the song get played more" ("The Gettys Exclusive: Famed Hymn Writers Talk Irish Christmas Tour," Christian Post, Dec. 2, 2014).

The Gettys represent the entire exceedingly dangerous world of contemporary worship music as surely as **Graham Kendrick** or **Darlene Zschech**, and any bridges that Bible-believing churches build to the Gettys are bridges built to the one-world "church" and even to secular rock. ■