



Melbourne

Church of Christ

Where You Are Part of God's Family

May 1, 2011

Learning Through Suffering

Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. (Romans 5:3-5)

In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. (Hebrews 2:10)

Although he was a son, he learned obedience from what he suffered and, once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him. (Hebrews 5:8-9)

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

John Stott says, "Biblical teaching and personal experience thus combine to teach that suffering is the path to holiness and maturity." No doubt, those who experience deep suffering do often develop a depth of character that is lacking in the general population. I like what Peter says in 1 Peter 4:1, "... he who has suffered in his body is done with sin." In the Christ follower's spiritual development, God knows that suffering produces a character that is marked by the meekness and gentleness of Christ. Suffering has the potential to stop us from sinning. This idea scares me a good bit because I wonder how much suffering it might take to deal with my own sinfulness. Don't misunderstand, suffering alone is not spiritual, but understanding how God uses suffering in the life of the Christ follower is important.

The idea of learning obedience through suffering and being made holy through suffering is not difficult to believe in light of other experiences we have. We know that the human body becomes fitter and healthier through exercise. Exercise puts the body through suffering (I'm reminded more intensely of this fact with each year that passes!). But suffering through exercise produces a healthier you. Texts like James 1:2-4 show me that character and holiness are produced in a similar way. The suffering and trial experiences of my life lead me to be more like Christ was as he went through his own suffering.

With the thoughts of this article in mind, perhaps you can now understand the suffering of Christ a bit more fully. Jesus suffered to relate completely with our humanity and to be able to call us brothers (Hebrews 2:10-17). The cross of Christ becomes more powerful to the believer than ever before. Jesus laid aside his immunity to pain. He entered our world of flesh and blood, tears and death. He suffered for us. Our sufferings become more manageable in the light of his.

—Steve Puckett



*We see the risen Christ when we look into one another's eyes.
We touch his wounds when we share one another's burdens.
Together, let us worship our Lord!*



Melbourne Church Family Calendar/Area Events

(See the bulletin board, bulletin insert, or call the church office for more information)



- 5/1: Parents of Youth - brief meeting w/Walter after services to meet summer intern, Matt Provonsil
- 5/1: Service at Indian River Center, 2 p.m. with Gary Canup and Melbourne Family Singers
- 5/3: Ladies Bible class/lunch, 10:30 a.m. in the church office (lunch will be at a restaurant TBA)
- 5/3: Men's 1st Tuesday Prayer Meeting, 7 p.m. in the church office
- 5/8: Happy Mother's Day! Pancake breakfast & TORCH trip fundraiser, 8:30 a.m.
- 5/8: No afternoon service at Consulate Health care today
- 5/15: Blood Drive in our parking lot, 8:45 a.m.
- 5/22: All-church fellowship and high school graduation celebration, 5:30 p.m. Plan to bring picnic-type sides & drinks.
- 5/29: Service at Consulate, 2 p.m. with Julio Roman and Melbourne Family Singers
- 5/30: Church office closed for Memorial Day



Ramblings From the Tilted Halo Society

A Flying Leap

I served four years in the Navy from 1976-1980. I arrived on my first ship shortly after boot camp. My first ship was the USS Charleston LKA 113 an amphibious cargo and assault ship. I was nineteen years old; I thought I was pretty hip, slick and cool and ready to begin my stint in the Navy. When I reported aboard, I was assigned to be a cook; one of the other cooks gave me a tour of the ship. I was quite impressed and beginning to feel pretty important but was really quite nervous. I was wearing my dress blues which really let everyone know I was a rookie, a mere boot, (a boot is a rookie fresh from boot camp). After the tour my mentor said, "let's eat." We went through the galley (kitchen) and through to the mess hall (dining room where the crew eats). As we were going into this new room, my shin hit a small bulkhead (wall), which was about twelve inches high, because I was looking straight ahead. My tray flew forward about ten feet and I went flying after it. The crew cheered my entrance with a cat call of; "boot, boot."

I was never so embarrassed in my life; after I cleaned up the mess and went back to the mess hall, I said I really wasn't very hungry after all. That was my welcome and shining moment aboard the USS Charleston, a moment that lived in infamy. Now that I had introduced myself to everyone, I couldn't hide the next 6 months I was aboard that ship and no one was going to let me live that one down. What the heck was that thing doing there anyway? My Chief said something about air-tight doors. Hmmm. That was a time I literally fell; I have fallen several times figuratively. I have made many mistakes in my life, and have fallen through sin.

With God, when I fall, he gently and sympathetically lifts me up, wipes me off, says that he loves me. He believes me when I say I want to change. He says, "C'mon let me help you." He hands me my tray and gets down and helps me clean up my mess. He comes with me, helps me fill my tray and says, "It is okay. Let's try this again but don't forget the air tight fittings, don't forget the holes in the road, the distractions and temptations; I am with you and will guide you. Keep your eyes on me."

We may all trip, stumble and fall along the path to heaven. Don't give up, don't hide, ask God for help. Keep your eyes open. Hebrews 12:2 (NIV), "Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

God Bless
Ken Jones
THS <><

*Counseling is available, free of charge, for any of our members, your families, and any referrals you may want to make.
Call Ken Jones to schedule an appointment - church office, 723.8233 or cell, 501.2014.*

Family News and Notes



Shepherd's Corner

THE SILENT SERMON

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the minister decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The minister found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his minister's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The minister made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs.

After some minutes, the minister took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The minister glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire.

Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the minister reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."

We live in a world today, which tries to say too much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best "sermons" are the ones left unspoken.

--author unknown (submitted by Al Womack)

Children's Ministry Announcements

5/2 Sun. AM - Nursery is provided during adult worship for infants and toddlers up to age 3. Preschool Children's Worship is available for preschool children age 3-5. Elementary children (K-5th) will go to the CW room right after Bible classes. Our virtue this month is Forgiveness.

* Please pick up your children promptly after services.

5/4 Wed. 7 PM - All children go to the Children's Worship Room. Our rotation this month is Follow the Light..

Upcoming Events:

Wild Wednesdays VBS, beginning June 22-July 20 (6-8 p.m.)

Each Wed. evening will be like a day of VBS. Pre-registration is suggested! (See bulletin insert for details)

4/24/2011

CW Contribution \$29.25
(All CW contributions go to Called + Compelled Honduras Missions)

Attendance:

Sunday School (cradle roll-5th gr.)	35
Preschool Children's Worship	10
Elementary Children's Worship	25
Nursery	6

Pre-School Worship & Nursery Assignments

May 1, 2011

Pre-Sch. Worship: Pam Mason/Irene Mann/Benjamin Heuser

Nursery: Melissa Webber/Cheri Tate

May 8, 2011

Pre-Sch. Worship: Stacy Carter/Alex Heuser

Nursery: Cindy Puckett/Vivian Lara



Food Pantry Report

This past week, 111 families/354 individuals were served with food through our food pantry!

Donations of non-perishable items or money to purchase them are always welcome and appreciated! Cereal continues to be a staple need. Thank you to Ernie Punzalan, Bob Eckelberry, our dedicated staff of volunteers, and to all who continue to support our pantry in any way!

The Melbourne Church of Christ Food Pantry is open to the community on Tuesdays from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., and is a non-discriminatory facility of The Emergency Food Assistance Program.

Melbourne Church of Christ
810 Hollywood Blvd.
West Melbourne, FL 32904
(321) 723-8233
www.melbournechurchofchrist.org
office@melbournechurchofchrist.org

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes All Ages 9:30 a.m.
 AM Worship (Eng/Sp.) 10:30 a.m.
 PM Worship 6:00 p.m.
 (Alternative Care Group Meetings various times - contact Ken Jones)
 Pancake Breakfast 2nd Sun., 8:30 a.m.
 All-church fellowships on 4th Sun., 5:30 p.m.

Tuesday

Ladies' Bible Class Tues. 10:30 a.m.
 (lunch on 1st Tues. of month)
 Men's Prayer Meeting 1st Tues. 7 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Study All Ages 7:00 p.m.

Serving as Elders:

**Gary Canup, Tom Fennell, Don Hall,
 Mike Lovelace, Don Nickens,
 Calvin Potts, and Pat Seamon.**

Serving On Staff:

Tom Fennell, Pastoral Care
Linda Hounsshell, Financial Secretary
Ken Jones, Involve. Min./Counseling
Debby Nickens, Children's Minister
Walter Pierce, Youth Minister
Steve Puckett, Senior Minister
Cheri Tate, Secretary

Family Record 4/24/11

Attendance

6th grade-Adult Bible Classes:	110
Children's Bible Classes:	35
Total Bible Class	145
Auditorium Worship:	257
Spanish Worship:	na
Children's Worship/Nursery	41
Total Worship Count:	298

Budget Items

Weekly Budget 7/1/10-6/30/11	\$ 9,798
Contribution to Budget:	\$ 7,932
Contribution to Special Items:	\$ 3,130
YTD Budget	(\$21,974)

Order of Worship
May 1, 2011

Worship Leader	Tyrone Carter
<i>Prince of Peace (You Are Holy)</i>	<i>Overhead Slides</i>
Welcome and Announcements	Pat Seamon
<i>Light the Fire</i>	<i>Overhead Slides</i>
<i>Listen to Our Hearts</i>	810
Prayer	Jonathon Finlayson
<i>When I Survey the Wondrous Cross</i>	315
Communion/ Offering	Tom Hames
<i>The Joy of the Lord</i>	559
<i>The Greatest Commands</i>	448
Scripture Reading <i>Galatians 3:26-28</i>	Ian Hames
Sermon Message	Walter Pierce
<i>A Common Love</i>	705
Shepherd's Prayer	Gary Canup
<i>Step By Step</i>	15

- + A/V Tech: Rich Mason
- + Service at Life Care of Melbourne, 9:30 a.m.: Dave Bradley
- + Service at Indian River, 2 p.m. with Gary Canup & Melbourne Family Singers

Worship Coordinators

Ken Jones/Mel Green/Cletis Diel

Servers: Jonathon Finlayson (RS)
 (May.) Robert Bettis (RM)
 Eulice Curington (C)
 Jeff Crowe (LM)
 Jesse Parks (LS)

Ushers: Tyler Neidlinger (RS)
 (May) Norris Bottomlee (RM)
 Donny Canup (C)
 Stephen Fennell (LM)
 Chris Nickens (LS)

Shepherd's Prayer (May.): Gary Canup

Serving Next Sunday, May 8

Song Leader: Walter Pierce
 Opening Prayer: Dave Bradley
 Announcements: Pat Seamon
 Presiding: Rob Ellison
 Reading: Tom Barker
 Message: Steve Puckett

A/V Tech: Steve Lindsey

Shepherd's Prayer: Gary Canup

- + Service at Life Care of Melb., 9:30 a.m.: Tyrone Carter
- + No 2 p.m. service at Indian River today (Mother's Day)