

Reminder: Men's Business Meeting: Today at 4:30 p.m.

Address: Clint and Kristen Oster 3134 S. Market St. Apt. 3028,
Gilbert, AZ 85295. Phone: (505) 500-5513

Facts About the Bible

- According to statistics from Wycliffe International, the Society of Gideons, and the International Bible Society, the number of new Bibles that are sold, given away, or otherwise distributed in the United States is about 168,000 per day.
- The Bible can be read aloud in about 70 hours.
- There are 8,674 different Hebrew words in the Bible, 5,624 different Greek words, and 12,143 different English words in the King James Version.

July Birthdays

2 Rhea Hoffman 7 Kim Bruni
25 Chuck Limburg 26 Glen Colletti

July Anniversaries

4 Clint & Kristy Oster

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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(Address Service Requested)

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“Something to think about...”

“Precious Lord”

(Thomas Andrew Dorsey)

The story of a jazz musician named Tommy who went through a personal tragedy that led to his writing the song “*Precious Lord Take My Hand.*”

There have been many printed references to this story and connected it to the great American band leader, Tommy Dorsey. But the classic gospel song “*Precious Lord Take My Hand*” was actually written by a different man with the same name.

Tommy Dorsey the composer of “*Precious Lord Take My Hand*” was a jazz pianist and composer was born in 1899 and died in 1993. He is regarded by many as the father of gospel music. After a successful career as a blues musician, he switched to gospel music. For more than 40 years, he was the choir director Chicago’s Pilgrim Baptist Church.

The actual story of the tragic death of his wife: In an account in his own words written for Guideposts Magazine, Dorsey said he was actually scheduled to be in St. Louis to sing for a revival. He had anxiety about going because his wife was in her 9th month of pregnancy. When he left his home to head for St. Louis, he realized that he had forgotten his music case, so he returned to get it and found his wife sleeping. He stood next to her and felt that something was telling him to stay home. He decided to leave and headed back to his car for the drive to the meetings.

The next night at the revival and after he had finished singing, a telegram was handed to him that said his wife had just died. He returned home to learn that his wife had given birth to a baby boy before she died. Before the night was over, the baby had died as well. Dorsey went through a difficult period after that. He said

he wanted to give up serving the Lord and go back to jazz. One of the thoughts that haunted him was whether his reluctance to leave his pregnant wife had been a leading from God and whether he had been disobedient by ignoring it. He vowed that he would never be insensitive to such a leading again.

It was during a subsequent visit to a friend that he sat down at a piano and found himself at peace and a melody being played. That became the song **“Precious Lord Take My Hand.”**

Dorsey wrote, “As the Lord gave me these words and melody, He also healed my spirit. I learned that when we are in our deepest grief, when we feel farthest from God, this is when He is closest, and when we are most open to His restoring power. And so I go on living for God willingly and joyfully, until that day comes when He will take me and gently lead me home.”

Editor note: now you know how this song came about.

Christianity

By H. E. Brown

- *Christianity is not the religion of sorrow and gloom: it is the religion of the morning, and it carries in its heart the happiness of heaven.*
- *Christianity is not a restraint but an inspiration - not a weight but wings; not subtraction but addition.*
- *Christianity brings bloom for faded hearts, rejuvenation for the prematurely old, imagination for the dry, literal mind.*
- *Christianity is not a kill-joy at the feast of life, nor a kind of incarnate don't: It bristles with great affirmatives, fires the soul with permanent enthusiasms and durable loyalties.*
- *Christianity leaves a trail of light wherever it goes; it can keep you cool under any confusion, bring you up smiling from any depth and utterly banish your fret and worry.*
- *Christianity brings zest and sparkle to life; it is sunshine on the flowers rather than moonlight on the snow; it is life more abundant; it is leaving the little narrow life behind and leaving it forever.*

A Tribute to Someone Else

We were saddened to learn this week of the death of our most valued volunteer – **“Someone Else”**. Someone's passing created a void that will be difficult to fill. Else had been with us for years and for everyone of those years, Someone did far more than a normal person's share of the work. Whenever leadership was mentioned, this wonderful person was looked up to for inspiration as well as results, “Someone Else” can work with that group.

Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach, a meeting to attend or time spent with a person in need of companionship, one name was always on every list, Let “Someone Else” do it.

It was common knowledge that “Someone Else” was generous toward the church. Whenever there was a financial need, everyone just assumed “Someone Else” would make up the difference.

Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of “Someone Else”. Now, “Someone Else” is gone! We wonder what we are going to do. “Someone Else” left a model example to follow, but who is going to do the things “Someone Else” did?

“For every man shall bear his own burden” - Galatians 6:5

Did You Think to Pray?

By Steve Higginbotham

Consider the following truth: “Jesus went more readily to the cross of Calvary than we do to the throne of grace in prayer.” But why is that so? Is it because of a lack of faith? A spirit of independence? Carelessness? Yes, yes, and yes.

Friends, when I meditate upon that opening statement, I am put to shame. What about you? Well, if you're like me, you have a choice to make. Will you go your own way and act as though you were never confronted by this truth, or will you decide to do better? If my Lord could willingly face the horrors of the cross, then surely I can with more consistency approach the gracious throne of God with my petitions and intercessions. What about you?

“Devote yourselves to prayer, keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving...” (Colossians 4:2).