

## Upcoming Events...

1 Corinthians Class: Every Tuesday at 12:00 p.m.

Ladies' Bible Class: Today, May 21

Barnabas Group Meeting: May 30

## Focus on Others

*“With all prayer and petition pray at all times in the Spirit, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints”.* Ephesians 6:18

*“Therefore encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing.”* 1 Thessalonians 5:11

*“But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.”* Hebrews 3:13

## May Birthdays

2 Peggy Woodruff    9 Kurt McGraw    15 Kena Brown

### 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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# Indio Informer

Vol. 28 No. 21

May 21, 2017

## A Prayer For One Another

From the Church of Christ, East End, Lexington, KY

One of the greatest blessings we can offer each other is our prayers. As Paul instructed in [Ephesians 6:18](#), we need to persevere in making supplications for each other. We must certainly offer help and give aid in very practical ways, day to day, but we must be sure to make all that help worthwhile by inviting God to be part of the relationship and by inviting God to bring His blessing on our friend that we are helping. As [Psalm 127:1-2](#) explains, it is vain for us to rise up early and stay up late, spinning our wheels, even in help to our brethren if God is not brought in to help and strengthen.

Certainly, in our individual relationships, we may know of specific requests to offer on behalf of particular individuals. We may know of particular struggles with temptation, particular battles, particular tragedies. However, we can't possibly know most of our brethren that well. In that case, we need a good guide for prayer to bring our brothers and sisters before the throne of God and ask for His all-seeing care and guardianship over their lives.

Paul provides a great guide of praying for one another in [Colossians 1:9-12](#), praying: *“And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light”* (ESV). Notice three key aspects of this prayer.

**Key #1: Knowledge, wisdom, and understanding:** We are to pray that we may all be filled with knowledge. But this is more than a grasp of some facts about God and His will. This is a wisdom and understanding. Knowledge puffs up (cf. [I Corinthians 8:1](#)). That is, if all we are focused on is a head knowledge that proves intellectual superiority, we will be arrogant. But wisdom, applied knowledge, and understanding, grasping the purpose of the knowledge, keep us humble and focused on God's glory.

**Key #2: Walking in a manner worthy of the Lord:** We are to pray that our brothers and sisters will use the knowledge, wisdom, and understanding they have to walk like the Lord. While we are saved by the grace of God, we are saved in order to walk by the lead of God. We pray for this because we want our brothers and sisters to please our Father in heaven, bearing fruit for His glory and increasing in His knowledge.

**Key #3: Strengthened with God's power:** This gets right to the heart of what we all need. We can't go it alone. Neither can our brothers and sisters. We need the power of God to hold us up, protect us, empower us so we may patiently endure the trials Satan will hurl at us. When our brothers and sisters are strengthened by God, they will be able to give thanks even in the face of trials because they are aware that God is the one qualifying them.

Our brothers and sisters need us to pray for them. Let Paul's prayer be a guide for us as we lift them up to His throne of mercy and grace this week.

## **The Secret of Satisfaction**

By Edd Sterchi

I read an interesting article recently about a study that was done concerning happiness. The results were reported in the March 21, 2008 issue of Science magazine. The gist of the results was that spending on others brings people greater satisfaction than buying things for themselves. The article also interestingly noted: "What's

more, most people seemed unaware of this hidden key to happiness,' the researchers said."

I guess you could say that money can buy happiness - when it is spent on others! All humor aside, it is important to note that this great discovery by this particular team of researchers is not new information - the Bible beat them to it.

It is God's plan for man to give. He designed it so that giving is what would bring great satisfaction to our lives. Parents know well at gift-giving time the great pleasure that comes with giving wonderful gifts to their children. Spouses realize that even a small gift given out of love is not soon forgotten and brings happiness long after the moment of giving.

As children of God, we should well realize the importance of giving to others in the name of the Lord. We should want to give because God has given us so much. We should desire to bless others because God has blessed us so abundantly. We should even be willing to sacrifice in giving to help others because we so well know the rewards and help we reap from Christ's sacrifice. Christians should live to give, knowing that blessings follow. Would you like to be more satisfied with life? Then try giving more!

And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, "*It is more blessed to give than to receive.*" (Acts 20:35)

*"So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."* (2 Cor. 9:7)

*"He who has a generous eye will be blessed..."* (Pro. 22:9)

*"Give, and it will be given to you...For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."* (Luke 6:38)