

Clay's Corner

I came across this blog post from "Ransomed Hearts" the other day. I share it with you today because I think it would be good if we all sat and rethought our lives to some degree or the other. Stop and think about what motivates you, what drives you to do, think and say some of the things in your life.

From Ransomed Hearts:

The book "Killing Lions" is a conversation between John and Sam Eldredge about the trials young men face.

[John] "You simply cannot neglect the heart and get away with it. The mind is a beautiful instrument, one we certainly want to develop all our lives and not only in the college years. But God gave us the mind to protect the heart, not usurp it. As Walker Percy said, "You can get all A's and still flunk life."

So let's think about identity and the heart for a moment. All men, young or old, have within them a famished craving for validation. It will not be denied. We will chase validation wherever we can and we learn pretty quickly what our world rewards, what it shames, what it cares nothing about. So the athletes seek *validation* by being fast, strong, and winning, while the valedictorians throw themselves into papers, exams, and maintaining their GPAs. The "spiritual leader" latches on to the praise coming from their giftings, and they give their hearts and souls over to that dance, while the "cool" kids go barefoot and wear dreadlocks. We are all looking for the same thing.

When a young man doesn't know who he is and what he's made of, resisting those "scripts" that are being handed out is about the same as defying gravity. "Let's see—I gotta do my laundry, move my car, and oh yeah, I think I'll fly today."

Have a blessed week!

PRAYER LIST

- Pauline Alvarez (health)
- Lauren Babb (health)
- Aaron Banks
- John Beiler (health)
- Family of Kenneth Chrismon (Cody's grandfather)
- Dawn Clarke (Shirley Kuchynka's daughter)
- Betty Cox (Brent Barnick's sister—homebound)
- Dixie (Debbie Faires's mother—Alzheimer's)
- Jake Faires (Air Force, deployed to Jordan)
- Paul Faires (health)
- Steven Faires, and Lexi
- Cruz and Rae'Anna Flores (family losses)
- Leon Giesecke (Jan Moerbe's father—throat cancer)
- Herbert and Nelle Hahn (health)
- Debbie Jalufka
- Sandra Jetton (health)
- Kevin and Victoria Johnson (healthy pregnancy/baby)
- Family of Emory Meier (Cheryl Pitts's father)
- Junior and Ada Powell (Sharron Mason's brother-in-law and sister—health)
- David Taylor (Cody Chrismon's uncle—cancer)
- Adrienne Zingrich (Susan Barnick's cousin—cancer)

PRAYER UPDATES

A memorial service for **Emory Meier, Cheryl Pitts's father**, will be held **this Friday, Jan. 20, at 10 a.m.** at Smithville Church of Christ.

Paul Faires has received good results on all of the medical testing he's had to date. While he is still undergoing some testing, he is beginning to feel better.

David Taylor, Cody Chrismon's uncle, responded well to treatment and is in remission!

If you have any announcements or prayer requests you wish to have included in the bulletin or to sign up for weekly e-mail updates, please contact Victoria Johnson: 325-518-9205, victoria@gonzaleschurchofchrist.org.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Area-Wide Singing: Smithville

You're invited to an area-wide singing **TODAY at 5:30 p.m.** at Smithville Church of Christ (1416 NE Whitehead St., Smithville, TX, 78957). The church will offer a light supper and refreshments afterwards.

Wednesday Evening Meal & Bible Study

Please join us at **5:15 p.m. this Wednesday** for dinner in the annex. This week's entrée is chicken and rice. Anyone who is able is asked to bring sides to share, but please do not let that prevent you from joining us. Classes for all ages follow at 6 p.m.

Men's Meeting

The men have their monthly meeting **next Sunday, Jan. 22, at 8 a.m.** at the building.

Singing at The Heights

Please join us **next Sunday, Jan. 22, at 3:30 p.m.** for our monthly singing at The Heights of Gonzales nursing home.

Fellowship Meal

Make plans to join us for our 5th-Sunday Fellowship Meal in the annex on **Jan. 29** immediately following morning worship. Anyone who is able is asked to bring a dish to share.

Bridal Shower

You are invited to a bridal shower honoring Megan Mason, bride-elect of Daniel Fisher, on **Sunday, Jan. 29 at 2 p.m.** at the home of Stacia Sweeney. The couple is registered at Bed Bath & Beyond.

Smithville Church of Christ Guest Speakers

Smithville Church of Christ invites you to go hear KrisAnne and J.C. Hall speak on **Saturday, Jan. 21, from 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.** KrisAnne is a Constitutional attorney and speaks on Constitutional History and the threat to liberty. She's a radio host, a former prosecutor, author, and pastor's wife. Tickets are free but please call one of the following people to claim a spot: Donald Loucks 512-718-8094; Kelly Holt 512-577-4092; or the Smithville Church of Christ office 512-360-2550.

Volunteers Needed: Wednesday Night Meals

Volunteers are needed to prepare the entrée for meals on Wednesday evenings. To help, please sign up in the foyer. **If you signed up to prepare a meal, please send your menu to Victoria by Wednesday the week before your turn.**

Volunteers Needed: Communion Prep

Volunteers are needed to prepare communion in the coming months. This task takes very little time and is a great service to the congregation. Please sign up on the large bulletin board in the foyer.

Sunday Night Small Group

There is a small group that meets in the annex each Sunday evening from 6-7 p.m. The Lord's Supper is available.

Tuesday Morning Men's Prayer Breakfast

All men are invited to the annex each Tuesday morning at **6:20 a.m.** for a time of breakfast, prayer and fellowship.

Ladies Bible Class

Ladies Bible Class continues **this Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 8:30 a.m.** at Jennie Chrismon's house in Shiner. The book for class is *Wives After God: Encouraging Each Other in Faith and Marriage* by Jennifer Smith. Please contact Jennie if you would like more information.

Canyon Lake Ladies Day

You're invited to Ladies Day at Canyon Lake Church on **Saturday, March 4, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** Lunch is provided. This year's theme is "Making Christ the Lord of Your Life in Every Season of Your Life!" and features speaker Becky Blackmon, author of *The Pearl Seeker* and *The Begging Place*. **RSVPs are due by Saturday, Feb. 25.**

Mark Your Calendars:

- **Feb. 5** Youth & Family Super Bowl Party at The Chrismons
- **Feb. 12** Youth Sunday: Valentine's Lunch
- **Feb. 26** Fellowship Meal
- Singing at The Heights

YOUTH ZONE

TUESDAY, JAN. 17
HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL
GONZALES VARSITY @ WIMBERLEY, 6:30 P.M.
THURSDAY, JAN. 19
JUNIOR HIGH BOYS BASKETBALL
SHINER V. WEIMAR, 5:30 P.M.
JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS BASKETBALL
SHINER @ WEIMAR, 5 P.M.
SATURDAY, JAN. 20
JUNIOR HIGH BOYS BASKETBALL
SHINER @ SCHULENBURG TOURNAMENT



Caden Chrismon—Shiner Jr High Boys Basketball
Jacy Chrismon—Shiner Jr High Girls Basketball

Morgan Mason—Gonzales HS Girls Varsity Basketball
Carly Pustka—Shiner Jr High Girls Basketball