
PRAY CONTINUALLY:

Dan Stevens, friend of the Kirbys, is doing better.
Will Pendergrass, who attends Johnson St. Church, is doing better.
Wanda Allen from ICT is in a nursing home in Rockwall.
Greg Blake is working in Santa Fe, NM, and may come home for a visit soon.
 We miss him!
Cindy Robinson is going to be visiting with her daughter. Pray for safety in travel.
Vicki Garcia has asked for prayer for her and Nevaeh regarding an upcoming hearing in March.
David Lusk is undergoing tests and will be having gallbladder surgery.
Robert Herrmann and **Robert Howard** while they are away driving truck.
Lester Humphreys and **David Smith** in their job search.
Carol Nall, Pam Squires' mom, is still in need of prayer.

"Jesus clearly identifies love as the ultimate badge of discipleship, the essence of His new commandment, which both supersedes and summarizes the Old Testament law."

"Wholehearted love for God produces worship, unconditional love for people produces encouragement."

"Encouraging contact involves giving of ourselves even to the point of personal sacrifice."

From "Friends in Deed" by Don Hawkins

FOR THE RECORD Jan. 29, 2012

SUNDAY:
 Bible Class:..... 78
 Worship A.M..... 90
 Small Groups..... 42
 Offering\$1645

WEDNESDAY:
 Bible Class:..... 35

COMMUNION PREP & GREETERS FOR February

Jerry and Mary Jean Stevens


SOUND ROOM WORKER:

Lester Humphreys

VAN DRIVER:

Don Kirby

UNION VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST



Volume 5, Number 6

Feb 5, 2012

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **First Sunday all-church fellowship dinner after services today. Visitors are welcome.**
- **"Daughters of the King" ladies prayer group meets on Tuesday nite at 7:00 p.m. at LouAnn Cullum's home.**
- **Men's Bible study Tuesday nite at 7:00 p.m. at Arley Sansom's home.**

"Heaven above is softer blue,
 earth around is sweeter green;
 Something lives in every hue
 Christless eyes have never seen!
 Birds with gladder songs o'erflow,
 flowers with deeper beauties shine,
 Since I know, as now I know,
 I am His and He is mine."

MINISTERS:

PULPIT: **David Lusk**
 davidtlusk@msn.com

Willie Tolison
 tolison1@juno.com

ELDERS:

Robert Howard
David Lusk
Tony Pribble

DEACONS:

Greg Blake
Worship, youth

Mike Johnson
Building, fellowship

MEETING TIMES:**SUNDAY**

Bible Class: 9:00 a.m.
 Worship: 10:00 a.m.
 Evening Worship: 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Class: 7:30 p.m.

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www.unionvalleychurchofchrist.com

"...always be ready to give an answer to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you ...1 Pet.

Simon Magus



Other than Acts 8:9-24, we don't have a great deal of information about "Simon the Sorcerer." When we meet him, we are told that he believed and was baptized. But "repentance"? Most hold that he never gave up magic and the black arts as his true career.

He took up Christianity because he was impressed by the miracles he saw Phillip doing. He himself had claimed to be "the great power of God"; so if he could also get the true "Holy Spirit power" that Phillip possessed, (Acts 8:18) he would really be set. His effort at buying the "power of the Spirit" gave rise to the word *simony* which means to "buy a religious office with money."

History says Simon didn't last long among the faithful believers. He used Christianity only as a way to make money. That was about his only interest in the Faith.

After his "conversion," they say he went to Rome and started his own "church." He began immediately to teach a strange form of Christianity that the world later called "Gnosticism" ("The knowing ones"). As far as we know, Simon never produced any good fruit for God.

The Bible warns us there will always be so-called "Christians" who are baptized, but not genuinely converted. If you want illustrations, think of "Ananias and Sapphira" (Acts 5) and recall Diotrephes in 3 John 1:9. Jesus himself warned us of the same thing in the "Parable of the soils" (Matt 13.) Four kinds of souls were affected by the word of God. Three showed promise of producing fruit, but only one made it.

How I would love to think that all the souls I helped become Christians lived as committed believers until death—Spirit filled and heaven-bound. But so many of the souls I baptized lingered for a while, then fell away.

The Apostles told us time and again this would happen. Peter, for example, said, *But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will also be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.* 2 Peter 2:1

Continued next column

Because there are so many "Simon's" in this world who started and failed, it makes it all the more beautiful when a Child of God actually holds on to the faith.

Once I taught a young teen by the name of Jeff, and baptized him. He was from a broken home. Neither parent was a Christian. The boy came on his own to Sunday worship, but none of us expected him to last long.

Many years later, I was visiting that church again. During the Lord's Supper, someone handed me the bread, and touched my shoulder. I looked up to see that boy (now grown into a married man) smiling down at me. My heart soared! Still faithful after all these years!

Did he succeed because of my great teaching? Was my teaching to blame for the ones who didn't remain faithful? The idea is absurd! Jesus called them "good" and bad "soil."

There may be a lot of "Simon's" among us who are shallow in their convictions, but there are some "Jeff's" too. Thank God!

Numbers 6:24

David Lusk



Happy Days!

Wyatt and Autumn Johnson, brother and sister in the flesh, are now brother and sister in Christ too. Wyatt was baptized January 15th, and his sister Autumn, was baptized on the



In both cases, their father, Michael Johnson, did the baptizing while a proud Mother and Grandparents looked on. Both these young people were well taught all their lives; and we look for good things to come from them.

Johnson, Mike & Brandy, Autumn, Wyatt

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