



AIM HIGH

April 11, 2011

It is with much regret that I let those of you who don't know that we lost a dear classmate and friend today – Linda Miller went to be with Jesus about 8:30 this morning. Gerald and family are doing well and are praising God for His work in their lives. There will be a Praise Service for her soon and I'll try to keep you posted on the date.

FROM MASTERWORK

“Jesus tells us of the prodigal son in Luke 15:11-32. The son scorned his father, demanded his inheritance, left home, and squandered all his money in immorality. Starving, he returned to his father to beg for mercy.

What did the son expect when he arrived home? Grace or Truth? How would you expect the father to respond to the son? Refuse to let him on the property; Disown him; Make him a slave; Yell at him; Lecture him; Say, ‘I told you so.’

All are tempting options. Jesus tells us what really happened. Read Luke 15:20. ‘He got up and went to his father. But while the son was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion. He ran, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him.’ Wow! What a surprise ending. The father dressed his son in the best robe and put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. He prepared the fattened calf and put on a feast, celebrating on the grandest scale. He cried, ‘This son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ (v. 24) Dignified men in the Middle East didn't run. And they certainly didn't throw parties for a son guilty of shame and waste.

Read in verse 32 what the father said about why he rejoiced: ‘We had to celebrate and rejoice.’ Had to. Now that's grace. Offstage was a truth-oriented older brother who had no room for grace. Resenting his brother's reinstatement, he essentially said to his father: ‘Look at all I've done for you. You owe me.’

Was the older brother justified in his reaction? Why or why not? What makes his response more truth-oriented?

This grace-filled father responded to his jealous son, ‘Everything I have is yours’ (v. 31). He didn't tell the eldest son to forget it, to get over his younger brother's childish antics. He graciously

turned to the older son and said that he was and would always be there for both his sons. That's what grace does.

A home full of grace is also full of truth. Why? Because grace doesn't make people less holy. It makes them more holy. Grace doesn't make people despise or neglect the truth. It makes them love and follow truth. Any concept of grace that leaves us – or our children – thinking that truth isn't important is not biblical grace.

SNACKS

Well, due to some confusion, I'll bring snacks this week.

APRIL MISSION PROJECT

We are collecting tennis shoes for kids this month. Pick up some tennis and join us.

UPDATE

We had a great time at our community outreach last Saturday. Bill Eubanks has been doing some follow-up and we may have some visitors this coming Sunday from the apartments. If we do, please bend over backwards to make them feel welcome.

SATURDAY, APRIL 23

This will be a great night for our class to gather at the Passion Play. And, for those of you who have volunteered to help with the Hot Dog Supper, you are to make pink lemonade, iced tea (sweetened) and water in the containers we used last Saturday. The drinks need to be a Charles Page by 5:00 p.m. They need to be iced down so we don't have to mess with ice. You also need to take about 500 styrofoam cups from the church to the High School. Once there, you will need to man the drink station to keep the cups coming.

PRAYER REQUESTS - HEALTH

- Cypert – has been diagnosed with MS
- Judah Rutledge (Chappelle) – has swallowing issue
- Joann Hamilton (Chappelle) – having shoulder replacement surgery on Tuesday
- Erna Pickerel – MRI on kidneys
- Shirley Taber's Mom fell and hurt herself
- Rich Lembke's Father continues to decline
- David George – not feeling well



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- Rob Perkins' Mother is having health issues
- Alex (Selph) – horse fell on her. She has been moved to a rehab facility in Nebraska
- Cheryl Frailey (Lowther) – cancer has recurred
- Phyllis (friend of Teresa Morrow) is caring for a husband and son who are dying of cancer
- Jenita (Johnson) – Dad, Jim Bearden, in final stages of Alzheimers
- Gerald Miller – has multiple health issues
- Kyle James' wife's grandparents are both hospitalized in Brownsville, Texas
- Man who used to lead the group Harold is with in Mexico has a brain tumor.
- Christopher Pickerel is now on total disability due to spine issues.
- Vincent – 5 year old with possible brain cancer (R. Johnson)
- Cheryl (Charlene's cousin) – hormone issues
- Haley – attempted suicide (Lembke)
- Edwin Black – recovery from flu (Kinser)
- Clem's co-worker – cousin in car wreck and is brain dead
- Brandy Lembke – recovery from shoulder surgery
- Billie Hopkins – cancer treatment is now going to be radiation – Deb is claiming healing of the spots on her lung and liver
- Georgia (Crystal's sister) is now able to speak and is hoping to have her trach changed
- Rich Olds – stress (Clem Hitchcock)
- Kelli Harper – lymphoma
- John Wright – lung cancer & pneumonia (Henderson)
- Jim Crawley (Linda Shope's brother) has been diagnosed with myasthenia gravis – is doing better
- Co-worker has husband with glioblastoma tumor on brain – little time left (G Hitchcock)

- Bob and Carolyn – friends of the Kinsers – health issues as they care for their grandchildren. Family changes are on the horizon which will be very difficult.
- Dwight Hillhouse – continue to pray for his health

OTHER PRAYER REQUESTS

- Chris Pickerel – has custody hearing
- Tom and Steph Johnson have started a College and Career Sunday School class
- Pray for our schools and their handling of bullying
- Tyler Oldham (Kinser) - Afghanistan
- Ron Taber is retiring June 24th
- Friend of Gerald – Jolene – her husband has asked for a divorce

- The Pitts' son-in-law, Gabe Cochran, travels on business to many of the most dangerous places in the world
- Josh Luke (Ludiker) – in Afghanistan
- Teresa Morrow – she and Clay have some difficult decisions to make
- Laura and Jeff Edwards – job issues
- Teresa Morrow – has job interview
- Joan (Kinser) – driving ability
- Gerald Miller - unspoken
- Gerald has another brother who needs to be in church
- Debbie Pitts – unspoken
- Pat Kinser - unspoken
- Jay Hillsberry – unspoken
- Mary Foster – unspoken
- Teresa Morrow – very special unspoken request

PRAISE REPORTS

- Outreach was a roaring success

SEE YOU SUNDAY???