

Senior Solidarity

Sentinel

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Petaluma Christian Church
1160 Schuman Lane
Petaluma, CA 94952

Sometimes the people we least expect become our closest friends. Broaden your horizons by befriending people of all ages and backgrounds.

Answers to Last Month's Questions

1. David (1 Chronicles 21:1)
2. Judas Iscariot (Luke 22:3-4)
3. Peter (Luke 22_31)
4. Ananias (Acts 5:3)
5. Sceva (Acts 19:16)

Back to the Bible

And find out:

1. What king of Israel was tormented by an evil spirit?
2. In the story of the demon-possessed boy healed by Jesus, what had the evil spirit been doing to the boy?
3. What did the evil spirit do when Jesus cast him out of the man at Capernaum?
4. What possessed man ran around naked?
5. What was the affliction of the woman who had an evil spirit for eighteen years?

Monthly Truths

“Wishing to be friends is a quick work, but friendship is a slow-ripening fruit.” Aristotle

Scripture of the month

“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you...” Matthew 7:12

Something to Think About

Sometimes, the process of making new friends is slower than we'd like. But think of one close friend you have now and all the years that you have “ripened” your bond. Making a long lasting friendship doesn't happen overnight; it takes time. Focus on and enjoy the process of fostering a new friendship, not on some instant connection.

Don't give up on a friend who doesn't reciprocate as much as you'd like. Everyone goes through busy periods. Keep in touch so that when the time is right, you can pick up where you left off.

Fascinating Facts

During his long life, Daniel received many compliments. Even as a young man, he was known for his wisdom. A popular proverb in those days was, “*Behold, thou art wiser than Daniel*” (Ezekiel 28:3). Tradition says Daniel taught two Persian kings the knowledge of the true God, and it is believed that the Zoroaster of the ancient Persian religion was a fictitious character drawn from the image of Daniel. Some Asiatic peoples claimed that Daniel invented geometry. The historian Josephus notes that Daniel was the architect who masterminded the building of the famous Susa Tower in Persia where all their kings are enshrined. In spite of all of these accolades, Daniel's highest compliment came from the angel Gabriel. Sent in answer to Daniel's prayers, Gabriel twice called him “*Greatly beloved*.”

The most famous part of Daniel is the incident of him in the lion's den familiar to most every Sunday school student. Daniel's book literally breathes stories of God's protection and direction. By reading Daniel, one can see how closely God hovers over those who love Him, and how He returns that love in many ways. May we too strive to be “*greatly beloved*” by our God? The songwriter says, “All the talents I have, I have at thy feet. Thy approval shall be my reward.”

Billie

Four In The Fire

Daniel 3:1-30

Kings are well known for their pretensions. For example, Louie XIV of France, was exceedingly proud. Not wanting to be outdone by the splendor of his visitor, he once received the Siamese ambassador at Versailles while stumbling under the weight of a fur robe encrusted with diamonds valued at one-sixth the cost of Versailles itself. Nebuchadnezzar was even more proud than the arrogant French king. He had a great gold image of himself made to serve as an object of worship, demanding that all his subjects bow to it. Three said, “No!”

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, along with Daniel, were among the first Hebrew exiles taken from Jerusalem to Babylon. They were selected for special training because of their appearance and demeanor. Nebuchadnezzar soon sets up his 90-foot idol, demanding that all the people worship it. The three Hebrew children refuse to bow down. They know God is able to deliver them from a terrible death but do not know whether He will. Regardless, they will be faithful to their convictions, and God honors that stand in a most unusual way.

Daniel 3:1-15 Nebuchadnezzar is furious with the three Hebrews. Refusal to bow to this world angers the god of this world.

Daniel 3:16-18 The three said that even if God didn't deliver, they wouldn't bow. Our stand for God should be unconditional.

Daniel 3:19-23 Doing so just further angers our evil accusers. When we are right, there is no need to defend ourselves.

Daniel 3:24-25 In the moment of their greatest crisis. God was walking among them. God always stays with us in the fire.

Daniel 3:26-29 Nebuchadnezzar is so impressed that he issues a decree honoring God. Our firm stand is a powerful testimony.

Daniel 3:30 The three are given gifts and promoted by the king. We are promoted in the Kingdom when we have stood the test.

This was not the first time the three Hebrew children had stood up to Nebuchadnezzar. Earlier, they were commanded to eat food that would have defiled them. They refused to do so, providing that God would take care of them. Now, the ultimate test of their faith came. Satan constantly stands by to put us to the test. However, God is always faithful to help.

Until next time, love Billie

To Know Christ and Make Him Known

God has faithfully given us His Word, the Bible. We must take responsibility for it growing in our lives. When we have a little of God's wisdom, He gives us more. Reading and hearing are not enough. We must understand God's Word; if we don't, the evil one will snatch it away. Our growth in God depends on us. We must prepare the soil of our hearts to receive God's Word. World worries choke off the word. Riches and cares of this world keep us from understanding God's Word. We can be productive if we choose to do so. Understanding and applying the Word brings success. Jesus often spoke in parables, the parable of the sower is a vivid picture of the seeds that grew and those that didn't. The seeds were the same, but the soil was different.

We have the responsibility of preparing our hearts and minds to accept God's Word. When we have succeeded, then we can make Him known to others. Today is not too soon to prepare our hearts to receive His Word. We must seek His will for our lives, and in His Word is where we must look, not

only to read, but to study. Billie

Agape Women's Fellowship

The Agape Women's Fellowship met at the home of Connie Falck on January 10th. All the Christmas gifts were delivered. Donnie Todd's came back, marked resident deceased. We were all saddened to hear this. We discussed what we would like to do for this coming Christmas season. We like to get started early. We voted in Faith Ross as our secretary, for the coming year. We also voted in Kathy Daniels to take over the sunshine chairman, for Nellie, until she can take it back. (since that time our Nellie was taken home to be with her Lord). Our next meeting will be at Pat Smith's home, on Feb. 7th. Her address is 533 Adrienne Dr. All ladies are invited to attend. We try to start at 7:15pm. Billie

Adventurous Seniors

Kaleb's Kids will resume on January 19th. The speaker will be Rich Cundall, pastor of Hessel Church in Sebastopol. Also Brad and Cindy Eidsen, AMF Missionaries to Fresno's Youth. It should be a great program.

There was thirteen seniors in attendance to our annual informational meeting and fund raiser. We had a lot of fun and raised a little over \$60.00. That will sustain us for the next year, thank-you one and all. Our next outing will be our Valentine Party on Feb. 14th, at PCC. It will be a pot luck luncheon, and then we will play several games of BINGO, for some great prizes. Bring a dish to share, a friend or two and we will eat at noon and then, let the fun begin.

February Birthdays

9th Debbie Vincenti
11th Carolyn Billing
13th Pat Smith
16th Kirk Massey
17th Terry Petersen
17th Gisela Zumwalt

* No anniversaries in the month of February.

Laugh A Little

Laugh a little, sing a little
As you go your way!
Work a little, play a little!
Do this every day!
Give a little, take a little,
Never mind a frown.
Make your smile a welcome thing
All around the town!
Laugh a little, love a little,
Skies are always blue!
Every cloud has silver linings,
But it's up to you!

Author Unknown