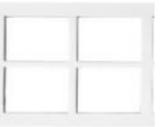


WEST SIDE WINDOW



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Personal Responsibility

By Dave Miller, Ph. D.

As the moral and spiritual fabric of American culture continues to unravel, one time-honored norm after another is being jettisoned from daily living. One of those traditional values has been the importance of taking responsibility for one's own decisions and actions. This cultural trait was once embodied in the widely circulated quip pertaining to an incident in the life of the father of our country. George Washington was alleged as a boy to have taken it upon himself to cut down a cherry tree. When questioned about the incident, he is reported to have remarked: "I cannot tell a lie, I chopped down the cherry tree." Regardless of whether this little ditty is fictional or historical, it illustrates the point that honesty, integrity, and owning up to one's own actions were once cherished societal norms.

For several decades now, however, this approach to life has suffered serious erosion. A prominent feature of current culture is to look for someone else to blame for those unpleasant things that happen in one's life. Coupled with this evasion of personal responsibility is the desire to get rich quick by suing anyone and everyone who might be even remotely connected to the circumstance. Consequently, a driver can spill coffee on herself after passing through a fast food drive-up window, sue the restaurant—and win! One can choose to smoke cigarettes for years, sue the cigarette manufacturers, and extract large sums of money. One even can eat hamburgers and French fries from fast food chains—and then turn around and blame the restaurant for gained weight and high cholesterol levels. Don't misunderstand. Genuine negligence takes place in our society in which those who promote services to the public fail to give adequate attention to genuinely dangerous aspects of their products. However, much litigation in America today is unjust, outrageous, and deplorable. Frivolous law suits have led to millions of dollars spent on superfluous warning labels that cheapen the significance of truly necessary ones. Since "accidents happen" through the ordinary circumstances of human existence without anyone really to blame, innocent people are being victimized, singled out to bear the brunt of reckless vengeance, undeserved retaliation, and greed.

One of the prominent teachings of the Bible is the fact that God holds all accountable human beings responsible for their own actions. The attempt to shift blame to others has been a perennial propensity on the part of many people (1 Kings 18:21; Matthew 27:24), but God consistently has insisted upon the necessity of a person accepting responsibility for his or her own thoughts, decisions, and actions. This insistence is seen, for example, in the oft-repeated phrases, "his blood shall be upon him" (Leviticus 20:9,13,27; Deuteronomy 19:10; Ezekiel 18:13; 33:5), and "his blood be on his own head" (Joshua 2:19; 2 Samuel 1:16; Ezekiel 33:4; Acts 18:6). It also is seen in the declarations that "the soul who sins shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4,20), and "the son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son" (Ezekiel 18:20; cf. Deuteronomy 24:16). We humans may try to "pass the buck" and evade responsibility for our own actions. It's like we tell small children: "If you put your hand in the fire, you're going to get burned." Yet, when we ourselves get burned for our own behavior, we become resentful and angry and want someone else "to pay." But there are consequences to our actions. God is keeping a record, and one day will call all of us to account (Matthew 12:36; Romans 14:12). He assigns responsibility for our own actions to us, no one else. When we make choices that bring hardship or hurt into our lives, we must be willing to humble ourselves and bear the consequences. If we do not want to endure that pain, we should not commit the acts that elicit such a result. If we do commit such acts, we have earned the resultant suffering, and we deserve to get what we have earned. We need to be adult enough to "take our licks." (cont. on page 3)

Please Remember:

- **Pantry item for this week is canned fruit. We are now working on food supply for the year.**
- **Red coupon collection for children's home. Receptacle on table.**
- **Extra change for Camp Indogan. Containers on table and at south entrance.**
- **Kleenex and cleansing wipes for Yorktown Elementary. Please leave at east entry near the carport.**

Don't forget the L2L kick-off next Sunday on Aug 31st at Village Bowl. All youth and parents who are interested in being a part of 2014-2015 L2L, please attend.

.....Look on the Table

There is a basket of older newspaper clippings of weddings and obituaries that are there for the taking. Please check through and take any ones that pertain to you or your family.

**Dare to be happy—don't shy away,
Reach out and capture the joy of today!
Dare to be happy, don't be afraid,
This is the day that the Lord hath made
By Helen Marshall**

.....Teaching by Example

Ellen Stoltz Welker was born at home, in Latham, Illinois. She will soon celebrate her 90th birthday. Her father, Henry Stoltz, was a farmer and, Grace, her mother was a helper in all aspects of the farm. To Ellen's sadness, she never got to milk a cow or commandeer a tractor after an accident with one of the hired hands. Being an only child, her mother did depend on her to fix the evening meal while milking and evening chores came due. Ellen learned to embroider, to cook and can and was an avid reader. She remembers her one room school in Latham and thought it was pretty modern since it had a water pump in the basement where the school children were allowed to play. Ellen has fond memories of being with her mother, who was part of a duo that sang and played the ukulele and guitar at community functions. Once, one of the school's teachers, roomed with the Stoltz family and this was a memorable experience. Ellen graduated high school in 1942 and then went on to study for her RN in nursing at St John's Hospital in Springfield, Illinois. She later worked there in the pediatric department.

George and Ellen met at a Christian Camp in Ohio where mutual friends cooked up a meeting, saying they were made for each other. It turned out to be true for they were married in 1950 and had 59 years together until his death. Thereafter, camp life was very important to them both and they devoted over 40 years to Camp Indogan and its mission. They counseled, taught, cooked and cleaned and were, in general, at the forefront of the camp's endeavors. George and Ellen first came to Muncie when George secured a teaching post at BSU. They were married on a Sunday, moved to Muncie the next Tuesday, and George began teaching on the following Thursday. He taught biology and was later selected to be head of the department. Before her children were born, Ellen returned to nursing for a time, working at Ball Hospital. She is the mother of three: Gail, who is married to Ray and lives in Nebraska, Pam and husband, Rick, who live in Knightstown, and Allen and his wife, Susan, who are residents of Murphysboro, Tennessee. There are eight grandchildren and 7 "greats".

Ellen says that her life, as an elder's wife, has been a rich and rewarding one. She is known to be a strong and supportive friend to all in the church—always concerned by their health and happiness and above all, their spiritual well being. Her advice to young elders' wives: their obligation to their children must come first. She reminds that an elder's wife will not know all that is on an elder's mind and to this, she must be reconciled. She also states that an elder's wife must be always ready to listen and impart help if ask. There are times when an elder needs the input of a woman, his wife, to help him navigate the problems of gender and culture. She should be his important and trusted ally. Ellen says she will always be grateful for the many experiences afforded her children through the eldership at West Side. The Welkers opened their home to many speakers, preachers, teachers, students and visitors who passed through this area. The lessons her children learned were those of sitting at the knees of strong and viable Christians who were working for the cause of Christ, of meeting and seeing the reality of people, what they professed and how they conducted themselves. West Side is indebted to Ellen for her steadfastness, her devotion and love for the church and for her warm and loving concern for others. Where there is death, sickness, happiness or celebration, Ellen can be counted on to be there. She does not fear the sorrow of others nor does she ignore the gladness of their lives. She makes herself a part of others in a way that speaks of doing good and doing it well. Ellen is an exemplary woman, one that truly lives and teaches by example. Happy birthday, Ellen. We love you and are so glad to know you as our sister in Christ.

SERVICES

Sunday Bible Study —
9:30 am
Worship — 10:30 am &
6:00 pm
Wed. Bible Study —
7:00 pm

MINISTER

Michael Gors

DEACONS

Don Allison- Advertise-
ment/Communication
Kendall Clark- Benevo-
lence/Visitation
Rex Harper- Building &
Grounds
Lowell Huffman-
Bible Correspondence
Course and Widows/
Widowers
Volker Jaromin- Educa-
tion
Larry Reynolds- Evan-
gelism
Todd Stults- Finance,
Lads to Leaders &
Leaderettes

MISSION WORKS

Tanzania, Africa

Christopher
Mwakabanje
plus two preaching
school students

India

Scott Richards

Russia & India

Mark Reynolds

Memphis School of

Preaching

Armand Wine

New Hampshire

Laconia Church of
Christ

The Belanger family

WORSHIP FOR August 24

MORNING WORSHIP

Announcements: Jerry Hoyt
 Song Leader: Gary Reynolds
 1st Prayer: Richard Messer
 Scripture: Bill Smith

Matthew 9:32-35

Sermon: Mike Gors

“Keep on Keeping On”

Closing Prayer: Joe Reed
 Sound Room: Don Allison

COMMUNION SERVERS

Prayer: Richard Messer
 West Side— Inside: Larry Terrell
 Outside: Jim Clark
 East Side— Inside: Chris Schombert
 Outside: Joe Walker

EVENING WORSHIP

Song Leader: Gary Reynolds
 1st Prayer: Kendall Clark
 Scripture: Rick Cox

“Genesis 41:37-41

Sermon: Mike Gors

“Passing Life’s Tests”

Communion Table: Richard Messer
 Closing Prayer: Volker Jaromin
 Sound Room: Don Allison

AUGUST 24TH DUTIES

Group Two is responsible for being greeters, securing the building and communion clean-up.

Communion Prep for August: Pat E. & Lonni

Remember in Prayer

Betsy Cartwright, lung cancer. Difficult time. Lela’s friend
Bob Allison, Chemotherapy treatments. Father of Don Allison

Brett Rutherford, missionary. Responding to treatment

Elayna Reynolds, Fracture of tibia. Using crutches.

Georgia Roberts, terminal, niece of Marie McBride

Ira Chambers, probable aortic heart valve replacement. Ira will be seeing a heart specialist this week.

Joyce Poplewell, In BMH for a few days and thereafter will go to Liberty Village in Muncie.

Laura Niccum, Thyroid cancer, recovering from surgery, Cousin of Genny

Lisa Staggs

Lynn Morgan Davis, back surgery. Friend of Natalie

Marie McBride, High blood pressure issues

Michelle Bohman, Mass in throat. Situation guarded. Cousin of Genny. Michelle & Laura are sisters.

Nancy Shaw, breast Cancer. Gaining strength. Sister of Janet Messer

Norma Haffner, on the passing of her nephew, Chad Haffner who died suddenly of heart attack. See page 4 for memorial service.

Ruth Prater, acutely ill with kidney shut-down. Remains at home with son, David Prater. In hospice care at this time.

Sue Clendenson, remains critically ill Sister-in-law of Marie.

Shut-Ins: Bill Gaw-Westminster Village

Evelyn Vannatter -Elmcroft

Forrest Hurst-Elmcroft

Lana Blanchard -Albany Health Care

Vada Zeek -Willowbend

Attendance for the Week of Aug. 17, 2014

Sunday Bible Study	86
Sunday Worship am	122
Sunday Worship pm	66
Wed. Bible Study	71

Wednesday Devotions Aug 27th

Devotions	Richard
Song Leader	Rex
Prayer	Larry R.

Looking Ahead

Aug 26, Men’s Fellowship Breakfast, 8a at IHOP

Aug 26, Ladies Breakfast, 10a at IHOP

Aug. 28, Chronological Bible Reading at the building, 10a-12n.

Aug. 28, High school and college age devotional at Town Acres. 7p-9p. Refreshment provided.

Aug. 22-28, “Polishing the Pulpit” in Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Aug. 28, Ladies Deep Bible Study Class, 7p-9p, at the building.

Aug. 30, Ellen’s 90th birthday party at the building. 2p-4p. Invitation posted.

Aug 31, Lads to Leaders & Leaderettes 2014-2015 Kick-off. See page 4

Sept. 7, Monthly devotional at Bethel Pointe. Everyone welcome to join in scripture, prayer and song. 2p

Sept. 12-14, Fall Rally at Camp In-dogan. Paul Levasseur is the director.

Sept 13, Goshen Church of Christ Ladies Day, RSVP requested. Sign-up sheet posted on bulletin board.

This week, please bring canned fruit for the food pantry.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Larry T.—Aug 26

Pam Smith—Aug. 26

Margaret H—Aug 27

Bethany—Aug 29

Jim W—Aug 29

Jane—Aug 30

Chad—Sept 1

Ginger—Sept 1

Memorial Service

Chad Haffner

August 24, 2014

2:00 PM

Fairlawn Church of Christ

6108 West Bethel Avenue

Muncie, IN 47302



Girl’s Year Round Song Leading Class will meet today at 4:30 in the large classroom. There are ten young ladies who are ready for L2L kickoff and are set to sing praises to God in their leading capabilities. Their ages range from eight years old to 16 years old.

Much thanks and appreciation for the lovely vases of flowers that accent our baptismal. They are donated and changed seasonally by sisters in Christ.

(cont. from page 1)

Even when hardship comes due to the nature of human existence and the world around us, with no particular individual responsible, we should humbly bow and commit ourselves to “Him who judges justly” (1 Peter 2:23).

America would be a much better place in which to live if we returned to an observance of the simple precepts of Scripture: “Repay no one evil for evil.... Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath” (Romans 12:17,19); “Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing” (1 Peter 3:8-9). www.apologeticspress.org