

(Cont. from page 1)

The majority view of America and its Founders from day one has been that gambling in its various forms is a vice that is destructive of the moral fabric of society—a view they gleaned from the Bible (see [Miller and Butt](#), 2003). With uncanny anticipation, George Washington declared to his troops on May 8, 1777: “As few vices are attended with more pernicious consequences, in civil life; so there are **none more fatal in a military one**, than that of Gaming; which **often brings disgrace and ruin upon officers**, and injury and punishment upon the Soldier” (8:28, emp. added). The death of Aaron Walsh is a tragic testimony to the truth of Washington’s declaration. If the military’s morality protocol from the beginning of our nation was still in effect, Aaron Walsh likely still would be alive, and his family would still have a father and husband. Even more tragically, if the Continental Congress was correct in its claim that “true religion and good morals are the only solid foundations of public liberty and happiness,” then America is moving swiftly down a road that will result in “a general depravity of principles and manners” and the dissolution of “public liberty and happiness.”

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West Side will be Supporting Ronnie Gootam

Ronnie Gootam will begin his studies at MSOP in January, 2015. He and his wife and son are finishing travel requirements at the present time. He is the son of Joshua Gootam who has worked many years in preaching and teaching of the gospel in the Kakinada area. Ronnie has grown up helping his father by recording announcements, doing radio broadcasts, setting up workshops, correspondence courses and preaching in his father’s stead.

Ronnie has a degree in Chemical engineering and worked as a software consultant for over 10 years in California. He has been asked to serve as director of a school of preaching which will be located about 20 hours north of Kakinada. The actual site of this school is yet to be determined. Mike and Gary will be traveling there in February, 2015 to gather information and to investigate any possible sites. They will be there two weeks and will set plans in motion for the actual building of the school since West Side has agreed to be the overseeing congregation. See Ronnie’s letter of intent to West Side and family photos posted on bulletin board for more information.

Mission Trip to Tanzania

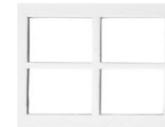
Bethany Allison, daughter of Don & Teresa Allison, is planning a 6 week mission trip to Chimala, Tanzania in the coming year. She is in her third year of nursing studies at Harding University and will make this trip through the International Health Care Foundation in Searcy, Arkansas. She will be assisting in surgery, delivering babies as well as other medical procedures, teaching better health care to the locals and sharing the gospel with all. Bethany is requesting your financial support as well as your support through prayer. She needs to raise \$4000 to \$4500 to cover transportation, housing and the cost of medical supplies. For more information, read Bethany’s letter posted on the bulletin board.

Snippets

—If you are interested in donating money for hand lotion and bookmarks for Indian women, please see Delores Huffman by tonight.

—Don’t forget to save box tops for the Midwestern Children’s Home in Ohio. Jar on table in auditorium.

—There will be a Lock-In at Columbus Avenue on Friday, January 2, 2015 from 8 PM. until January 3rd, 8 A.M. 6th graders and up are invited and activities will be focused on this age group. Please read flyer on board for further info. Ryan Cox is the contact person.



WEST SIDE WINDOW



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Gambling, the Military and Christian Ethics

By Dave Miller, Ph.D.

Aaron Walsh had a bright and promising future. A Warrant Officer in the U.S. Army and a decorated Apache helicopter pilot, he had a lovely wife and two young children. When he joined the Army, however, he developed an addiction to gambling due to the presence of slot machines on overseas military posts. (The Department of Defense uses slot machine revenues to fund military recreation programs). In 2005, he went AWOL, only to be found sitting in front of a video slot machine on a military post in Seoul, South Korea. Unable to break his addiction, young Walsh lost his family and his career in the Army, and spent time homeless on the streets of Las Vegas, Nevada. In 2006, he returned to Maine in hopes of reconnecting with his wife and children, but his gambling addiction only continued. Sadly, on September 26, 2006, at the age of 34, Walsh went to Baxter State Park and killed himself with a gunshot to the head (Griffin, 2007). “[T]he way of the transgressor is hard” (Proverbs 13:15, ASV).

American civilization has declined to such an extent that most citizens today would be surprised to learn that, from the very beginning of our nation until about 50 years ago, the majority of Americans viewed gambling as immoral. In fact, the Founding Fathers forthrightly addressed the issue of gambling. The Continental Congress passed a resolution on October 12, 1778, declaring their condemnation of gambling:

Whereas **true religion and good morals are the only solid foundations of public liberty and happiness**: Resolved, That it be, and it is hereby earnestly recommended to the several states, to take the most effectual measures for the encouragement thereof, and for the suppressing theatrical entertainments, horse racing, gaming, and such other diversions as are productive of idleness, dissipation, and a general depravity of principles and manners (*Journals...*, 1823, 3:85, emp. added).

The laws of Connecticut included a prohibition against gambling:

Gaming is an amusement, the propensity of which is deeply implanted in human nature. Mankind in the most unpolished state of barbarism and in the most refined periods of luxury and dissipation, are attached to this practice with an unaccountable ardor and fondness. To describe the pernicious consequences of it, the ruin and desolation of private families, and the promotion of idleness and dissipation, belong to a treatise on ethics (as quoted in Swift, 1796, 2:351).

In a letter to Martha Jefferson in 1787, Thomas Jefferson commented on the degrading influence of gambling:

In a world which furnishes so many employments which are useful, so many which are amusing, it is our own fault if we ever know what ennui is, or if we are ever driven to the miserable resources of gaming, which corrupts our dispositions, and teaches us a habit of hostility against all mankind (as quoted in Forman, 1900, p. 266). (Cont. on page 4)

SERVICES

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

MINISTER

Michael Gors

ELDERS

Mike Gors
Gary Reynolds
Larry Reynolds
Todd Stults

DEACONS

Don Allison— Fellowship
Kendall Clark- Benevolence
Jim Clark-Visitation
Lowell Huffman-Media
Volker Jaromin— Communication and Advertising

MISSION WORKS

Russia & India
Mark Reynolds

Memphis School of
Preaching
Armand Wine
Ronnie Gootam

Southeast Institute of
Biblical Studies
Preaching
Caleb Taylor

New Hampshire
Laconia Church of Christ
The Belanger family

WORSHIP FOR December 14, 2014

MORNING WORSHIP

Announcements: Larry Reynolds
Song Leader: Jerry Hoyt
1st Prayer: Howard Goodman
Scripture: Steve Gors
Matthew 5:13-20

Sermon: Mike Gors
"You are the Light, so be the Light"
Closing Prayer: Jim Clark
Sound Room: Jonah

COMMUNION SERVERS

Prayer: Don Allison
West Side- Outside: Carl Gilstrap
 Inside: Adam Gors
East Side— Inside: Chad Bobo
 Outside: Richard Messer

EVENING WORSHIP

Song Leader: Jerry Hoyt
1st Prayer: Jimmy Clark
Scripture: Rex Harper
1 Corinthians 3:1-10
Sermon: Mike Gors
"Ingredients for a Strong Church"
Communion Table: Bill Winemiller
Closing Prayer: Todd Stults
Sound Room: Jonah Stults

GROUP 3 DUTIES, DEC. 14 & 17

Greeters: Annex, Vivian & Dana;
Front Door: Ira & Holly;
East Entrance, Debby & Nancy.
Building Lock-up: Don & Teresa
Communion Clean-up: Sue

Communion Prep: Genny Stults

Remember in Prayer

Bob Allison, chemo treatments continue. Father of Don Allison.
Jerry Anderson, Uncle of Doug Anderson. On the waiting list for kidneys and liver transplant.
Linda Bigler, brain cancer. Ongoing chemo treatments
Brett Rutherford, missionary. Lesions on brain.
Herb & Betty Smith
Jim Witty, CT scan this past week for probable removal of cancerous left ear by the end of December.
Judy Schuck, Radiation treatment for cancer. Charlene's cousin
Laura Hudson, radical leg surgery in Indianapolis. Niece of Marjorie Hickey of Muncie. Requested prayer.
Lisa Staggs
Les & Sara Bonham, brother and sister-in-law to Pat Kidd. He has been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and she has cancer.
Rodney Lawson, Stage 4 lung cancer. Released to go home for a short period of time. Cousin of Kathy Harper.
Sandy Crawford, Cancer and also has shingles. Wife of a close friend to Kendall Clark
Sandy Phillips, A turning point last Monday with slow recuperation for Sandy. Released to go home on this past Thurs.
Shawna Schock, Second procedure for pain management scheduled for Dec. 17th at BMH.
Teresa Allison, Scheduled for surgery on Dec. 15th at BMH.
Kennedy Zade, Seizures of unknown cause

Shut-ins

Bill Gaw-Westminster Village
Evelyn Vannatter -Elmcroft
Forrest Hurst-Elmcroft
Lana Blanchard -Albany Health Care
Vada Zeek -Willowbend



Don't Forget

Mid Week Bible Study, prior to Christmas day will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 23rd at 7p.
Midweek service, prior to New Years Day will be held on Dec. 30th at 7p.



Wednesday Bible Study December 17th

Devotions: Larry
Song Leader: Rex
Prayer: Jimmy C.

Attendance for the Week of Nov. 30, 2014

Sunday Bible Study	81
Sunday Worship am	111
Sunday Worship pm	66
Wed. Bible Study	67

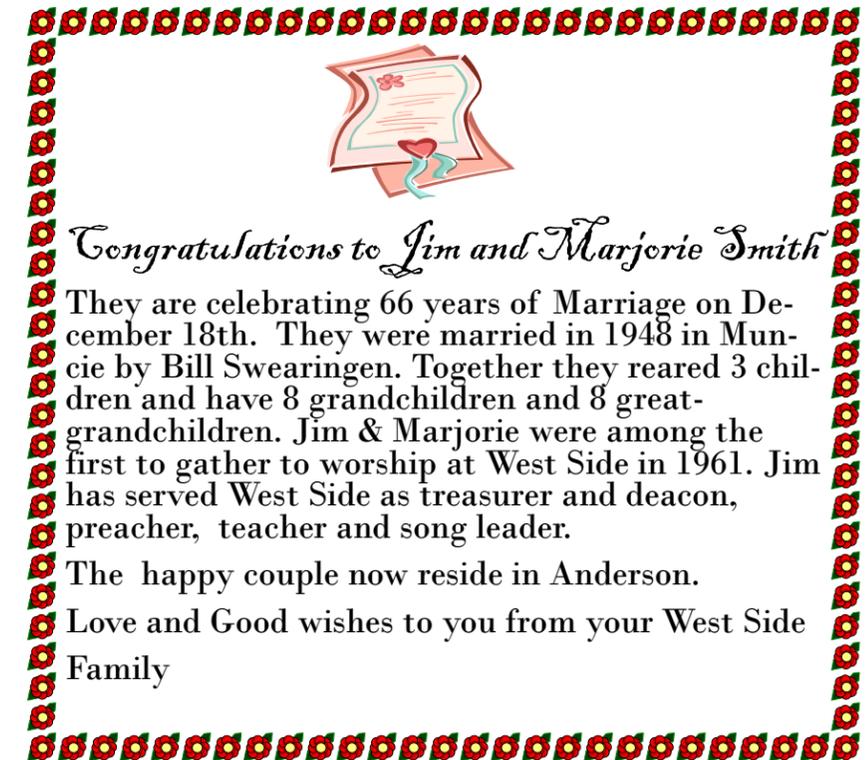
Happy Birthday!

Herb—Dec 14
Shawna—Dec 15
Nathan—Dec 18
Kathy H—Dec 18
Karen—Dec 24



Today and Looking Ahead

Dec. 14, Girls will lead songs of praise at Westminster Village at 2:00. This is the facility where Brother Bill Gaw resides.
Dec. 16, Men's Breakfast at IHOP. 8:00a
Dec. 16, Women's breakfast at IHOP. 10:00a
Dec. 18, College & high School Devotions at Towne Acres, 7:00p
Dec. 20, Christmas Food Baskets to be assembled and delivered. Anyone who wishes to help should report at 8:00a to begin the work day with biscuits & gravy prepared by Connie & Larry.
Dec. 20, Immediately after the food baskets are filled and delivered, there will be a Deacon and Elders Meeting at the building. This has been rescheduled from Dec. 13th.
Dec. 20, Bible Bowl at 7p
Dec. 21, Boys Song leading at the building at 3:00p
Dec. 28, Boys Song Leading at the building at 3:00p


Congratulations to Jim and Marjorie Smith
They are celebrating 66 years of Marriage on December 18th. They were married in 1948 in Muncie by Bill Swearingen. Together they reared 3 children and have 8 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Jim & Marjorie were among the first to gather to worship at West Side in 1961. Jim has served West Side as treasurer and deacon, preacher, teacher and song leader.
The happy couple now reside in Anderson.
Love and Good wishes to you from your West Side Family