



PRAYER REQUESTS

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 33

AUGUST 5, 2012

- **Mark McCollum, Pam Richard's Parents, Sasha Tompkins & La Donna Gammill** all need your prayers as they continue to seek great results.
- **Bobbye Wright** had a serious fall and could use prayers.
- **Beverly and Clifford Gunn, Judy Roybal, JO Vick, Dick and Judy Bird, Belle Yokum, Willie Johnson, Larry Reeder, Koben Puckett**, are all in need of prayers.

Announcements

- **Today** is our monthly potluck. We will have plenty of food, so plan on staying and fellowshiping with us by sharing a meal.
- **Helen Shaw** had surgery and was hospitalized. She is home now, and is slowly improving. Please keep **Helen** and her family in your prayers as she recovers.
- **Beverly Overton** was able to return to worship with us this last week following her injuries. She still will need a substantial period of recovery, so please keep her in your prayers.
- All of our college student are excited about their preparations for leaving this month. Keep them in your prayers.
- **Jean Good** is having some significant trouble with her hip and has been down for some time.
- On **Wednesday** evening we will meet at **7:00 PM for our Bible Class. Please join us.**
- **Pam Richard's** father is not doing well in his battle against cancer and could use some extra prayers.
- **Judy Roybal** is having a hard week.
- Check the back table and box for our donation items this month for the **Portales Christian Children's' Home.** We are collecting **flour and sugar** for the children. Let's make it possible for some baking to happen!

Silas Shotwell will bring the lesson today
Men Serving this Month

- **Announcements:** Tom Oliver
- **Scripture:** Bob Addison
- **Song Service:** Mark McCollum or GA Gunn

Happy Birthday

August 9—Hallie Roberts
Renee Carter

Anniversaries—

None this week

Calendar of Events

TODAY— Potluck

August 15— Working for the Master at 6

August 20— First Day of School for Teachers

August 22— First Day of School for Students

I AM: The Way by Phil Ware

We all carry around baggage, don't we? We normally think of baggage as bad stuff... stuff that weighs us down and gets in our way. And while it's true that most of us have negative baggage, there is another kind of baggage that gets in our way as well: good baggage!

Good baggage is the stuff that we use to make us feel better about ourselves, stuff that makes us feel superior to others and gives us a sense of importance and identity. Good baggage can be trophies we've won -- if you are like me, you remember packing all those trophies up in a box and throwing them away at some point in later life, when in your younger life they meant everything to you. Good baggage can be [degrees](#) we've completed, cars we drive, neighborhoods where we live, the people who are our friends, the size of our bank accounts, where we vacation, or buildings with our names on them. Good baggage can be the places we shop, the kind of phone we carry, or the brand name on our jeans. But, it's all still nothing more than baggage: stuff that weighs us down and gets in our way. None of it gets us to God and to life that truly matters and to life that lasts in the face of death and decay.

So if our baggage, whether good or bad, doesn't really matter, then what does matter? What gets us to life that lasts? What opens the doorway to God? What, in the end of things, really matters? Jesus answered, "*I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me*" ([John 14:6](#) NIV).

That's a very exclusive claim in a time and a world that doesn't want exclusive claims. But then, the claim that there are no absolutes, that there can be no exclusive claims, is a blind bias and an exceedingly exclusive claim against absolutes in a world full of inescapable absolutes -- try to ignore gravity or live without air or defy death or deny a host of other absolutes we take for granted. The real issue is that the world, the culture of humanity that wants to have no allegiance to God or to a higher call than the individual, personal, internal voice, doesn't want absolutes for fear that it is wrong and might waste life and miss what matters.

Here is the bottom line.

Jesus said it ([John 14:6; Matthew 28:18-20](#);). The early church proclaimed it ([Acts 4:12; John 6:68](#)).

And each of us, somewhere down deep in our soul, finds something that resonates with this truth -- I can't find life on my own, in myself, and there is something, or better yet, Someone, who I need to explain life and bring life or I will miss it. I need Jesus!

The more miles we travel down the road of life, the more we realize that the accolades and the messes, the trophies and the scandals, are all about as important as last year's newspaper -- yellowed, forgotten, and antiquated as a way to deliver truth, news, and what matters in the moment. In the end, it all goes in the box to be burned or buried.

The only way to God, the only way to lasting life, is to... not hide the bad stuff; not claim the good stuff; but to recognize the One who is not just stuff.

In the end, the only credential that matters is what we've decided and done with Jesus.

Posted: 08/05/2012 URL: http://www.heartlight.org/articles/201208/20120805_theway.html

Leadership of the Fort Sumner Church of Christ

Elders

Tom Oliver 355-2591

Les Miller 575.760.3833

Deacons

Pow Carter 355-2998

Gary Good 355-6426

Silas Shotwell: 575.512.4400

Supported Ministries

Miguel Garcia Zaragosa, Mexico

Satish Bontha Chennupali, India

Check out our web site for electronic versions of the newsletter and other resources to support your walk with Jesus—

<http://fortsumnerchurchofchrist.com>