



PRAYER REQUESTS

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Announcements

- Continue to keep **Pam Richards'** parents in your prayers.
- **Reagan Kenyon, Sasha Tompkins & La Donna Gammill** all need your prayers as they continue to seek great results.
- Beverly and Clifford Gunn, Judy Roybal, JO Vick, Dick and Judy Bird, Belle Yokum, Willie Johnson, Bobby Wright, Larry Reeder, Koben Puckett, are all in need of prayers.

- We mourn with the extended family of **Zell Gammill** as she passed away this week. Her funeral was on Thursday and many thanks to everyone who helped with the family meal and the funeral arrangements. Your love, compassion and assistance was deeply appreciated by the family.
- Keep the families of **Zell Gammill, Dolores Gonzales** and **Alice Cleaver** in your prayers since adjusting to the loss of these deeply loved ladies will be hard for them.
- On **Wednesday** evening we will meet at **7 PM** for Bible class. **Les Miller** has books in the back and you are welcome to take one for you and for a friend.

Benevolence Update

We are collecting **cereal** for the Portales Christian Children's Home this month. Our goal is fifty boxes and while we are a small congregation, the children are even smaller..... We know we can do this for the children :-)



Silas Shotwell will bring the lesson today
Men Serving this Month

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

Happy Birthday

None this week

Anniversaries—

March 16— Lecil & Pam Richards

Calendar of Events

March 12-16— Spring Break, No School

March 21— Working for the Master

April 1— Potluck Sunday

April 18— Working for the Master

May 6— Potluck Sunday

May 16— Working for the Master

May 20— Baccalaureate, 6 PM

May 25— Graduation, 7 PM

SPEAKING OF RECOVERY BY RUBEL SHELLY

Lots of people have trouble understanding why Josh Hamilton called a press conference several weeks ago on a Friday, February 3. They wondered why he told the story he told and left himself so wide open to criticism. But, there is a perfectly good explanation -- that some still can't get even after hearing it. And do I ever respect him for his integrity.

Hamilton is a professional baseball player -- an outfielder for the Texas Rangers. He is a very good baseball player. He was named the most valuable player in the American League for 2010. He has been a major part of his team's success in winning consecutive American League pennants in 2010 and 2011.

However, that Friday news conference wasn't really about baseball. It was about Hamilton's relapse with alcohol. You see, the 30-year-old star athlete has battled drug addiction for several years. While in the Tampa Bay organization, he was suspended for more than three years for his use of alcohol and drugs. He missed the entire 2004 and 2005 baseball seasons -- but came back with a vengeance to prove himself both as a star athlete and as a decent human being. "My life in general is based on making the right choices. Everything as far as my recovery, as far as my baseball goes, it's all based around my relationship with the Lord," Hamilton said in Saturday's news conference. "And I look at it like that, you all know how hard I play on the field and I give it everything I absolutely have. When I don't do that off the field, I leave myself open for a weak moment."

It turns out that he had left himself open the prior Monday night. After some tensions with a family member that day, he had three or four drinks at a restaurant. After calling a teammate to take him to the place he was staying, he went back and had several more drinks.

There had been no bar brawl. No auto accident. No pedestrian run over and killed by a drunken ballplayer. So why go public with an alcohol relapse?

People in recovery -- from drugs, alcohol, adultery, lying, gambling, or a thousand other things that tend to enslave us -- know that the worst thing that can happen is to embrace the old pattern of behavior and not get caught. So common practice for someone who really means to recover -- to get clean and to really change -- is to tell some trusted friends or to make a fully public acknowledgment of the problem. That person knows he has to offer an apology and to do what is within his power to make amends for a failure.

Still don't get it? Then you may be in danger of trying to keep hidden some of the harm done to you or that you have done to others -- harm that triggers actions by you that you can't quite figure out. It can be an explosive temper, compulsive lying, or serial adulteries. It can even be what some of us call neurotic religiosity. Secrets that play out in destructive acts are dangerous. Those secrets destroy -- marriages, friendships, careers, and lives.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:8-9 NIV).

The first step toward healing is always the confession of brokenness. Thus Hamilton's confession. And thus the prayers of so many of us who wish him well.

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URL: http://www.heartlight.org/articles/201203/20120306_recovery.html

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

<http://fortsumnerchurchofchrist.com>