



PRAYER REQUESTS

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MAY 27, 2012

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

Announcements

- Many thanks for the donations to gifts for **Meagan** and **McKayla** for their graduation gift cards. In addition to what you all gave, the church also gave them gift cards to The Masters Book Store in Clovis.
- **Mark McCollum** has prostate cancer and also has some additional cancer in his spine. He will be undergoing some highly aggressive treatment during the week and then be home on the weekends.
- On **Wednesday** evening we will meet at **7 PM** to continue our study of history of the church.
- **Pam Richard's** father is not doing well in his battle against cancer and could use some extra prayers.
- We donated \$3,000 to Eastern European Missions; \$700 to Miguel to help build a fence around his house; \$5,600 to the Children's Home for beef; \$2,500 to Satis to help with the church building; and \$2,000 to support an AIM student, Carla Wall, who will be going to South Africa on her mission.

Benevolence Update

We are collecting **Kool-aid & Cereal** for the Portales Christian Children's Home this month. As we joked last week, this is the breakfast of champions :-). We need FIFTY items by the end of this month.

Silas Shotwell will bring the lesson today

Men Serving this Month

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

Happy Birthday

May 20— Lee Foster

May 26— GA Gunn

Anniversaries—

May 30— Les & Patricia Miller

Calendar of Events

May 28— Memorial Day Holiday

June 3— Pot Luck Sunday

June 6— Cowboy Camp Meeting at the Community House

June 7— Talent Show at the School Auditorium

June 8— Spaghetti Dinner 5-7 in the Cafeteria

It Didn't Change Me! Rubel Shelly

During my travels last weekend, I stayed at a truly elegant hotel. I can't afford such places and never choose them for myself. But the great generosity of friends told me to close my mouth, stop the protest, and enjoy myself. So I did. And the experience was one I will not be able to repeat anytime soon.

Such a nice place has history, of course. Part of the appeal to people who choose to stay there is that they are inhabiting space previously shared by the likes of European royalty, world-famous athletes, and rock superstars. Who knows? The person in a given room may be in the same room once used by a man or woman or family tonight's overnight guest is occupying.

Let me spare you the expense. It isn't worth it! When I got up the next morning, I was still just an ordinary citizen; there was no more royal blood in my veins that morning than when I went to bed. Neither did I have an athlete's body or any sense of being able to hit a baseball out of the park in dead center field. And I certainly couldn't sing any better. Why, I was just sure that my morning shower would have me singing in such fine form that somebody would be pounding on my door with a multi-million dollar recording contract in hand.

This is a terrible, satanic myth!

Okay. I'm just kidding. The trip and overnight in elegant surroundings didn't make me lose my mind. I didn't expect that occupying hallowed space would transform me into any of those things. Just being in a place once occupied or made distinctive by distinguished souls doesn't transform anybody. But you already know that. So what's the point?

It seems to me that some people think they have a spiritual life just because they come from a certain religious tradition, are church members, or observe regular rituals associated with religion. But this works for them no more than staying at the famous Adolphus Hotel turned me into Queen Elizabeth II, Babe Ruth, or Bono!

One of the most terrible satanic myths I know comes in forms such as "I am a Christian because I live in America!" or "I am saved because I joined the church!" or "Only the people in my church are true Christians and will go to heaven!" No more than being a member of a certain group kept King David from adultery or being an apostle kept Judas from betraying Jesus or being a church leader whose name comes to your mind right now kept him or her from the moral and criminal behavior that landed that leader in jail.

The call of the biblical prophets rings true across the millennia: it is not words, rituals, and claims that prove you are God's child but family resemblance:

Anyone who sets himself up as "religious" by talking a good game is self-deceived. This kind of religion is hot air and only hot air. Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world (James 1:26-27 MSG)

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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>