



PRAYER REQUESTS

- **Chance Good** has kidney stones and it has been slowly passing little bits of the stones.
- Continue to keep **Pam Richards'** parents in your prayers.
- **Reagan Kenyon** received an excellent report from her most recent medical tests. Praise our Lord for this excellent news.
- Beverly and Clifford Gunn, Judy Roybal, JO Vick, Dick and Judy Bird, Belle Yokum, Willie Johnson, Bobby Wright, Larry Reeder, Zell Gammill, Koben Puckett, are all in need of prayers.

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

JANUARY 22, 2012

Announcements

- **McKayla Gunn & JayCee Isler** are both going to have knee surgery on February 1st. Keep these girls in your prayers for successful surgery and full recovery.
- **Sasha Tompkins** has throat cancer and there has been a change in her prognosis and she is receiving treatment.
- **La Donna Gammill** has breast cancer and had a lumpectomy. Test results indicate she is going to require additional surgery, so your prayers for the family and the medical staff would be appreciated.
- On **Wednesday** evening we will meet at **7 PM** for our Bible class and mid-week

prayer time. Please join us.

- **Les Miller's** father has been moved to a rehab center. He continues to bleed internally, but is holding his own at this time.

Benevolence Update

We are collecting **flour** and **sugar** for the Portales Christian Children's Home this month. Our goal is 50 items.



Silas Shotwell will bring the lesson today
Men Serving this Month

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

Happy Birthday

January 22— McKayla Gunn
January 27— Peyton Lewis
January 28— Brent Ward, Rhett Good, & Jean Good

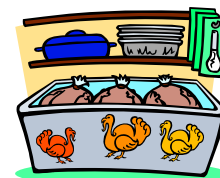
Anniversaries—

January 23— Bobbie & Donald Franks

Calendar of Events

February 5— Potluck Sunday

February 15— Working for the Master



TIM TEBOW CAN'T WIN!? BY RUBEL SHELLY

To borrow a sports metaphor, poor Tim Tebow just can't win. I'm not talking about football games, mind you. Tebow had a great winning career at the University of Florida. Against the cynics who said he couldn't make the grade as a pro, he led the Denver Broncos to some highly improbable wins this year -- including that remarkable game-winning pass that beat the Steelers in overtime in a playoff game. Quickest OT win in NFL history. Only 11 seconds.

It's in his polarizing public image that Tebow can't seem to get a break. On the one hand, does anybody really think God cares who wins a football game? On the other, would there be protests against a person of a faith group other than conservative Christians showing a public sign of his religious faith? From within Christian ranks, some point to Jesus' words about letting people "see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven" ([Matthew 5:16](#)); again, though, who thinks he was talking about a touchdown pass? Others point to Jesus' words later in the same sermon that his followers should "beware of practicing your piety before others to be seen by them" ([Matthew 6:1](#)); there, in fact, he was specifically talking about making donations and saying public prayers.

Then there's Bill Maher's now-notorious crudity about Jesus and Tebow in celebration of the Broncos being beaten. Others make fun of his virginity. Maybe the story will be told in a "Chariots of Fire" type movie a quarter century from now and Tebow will be as heroic as Harold Abrahams (Jew) and Eric Liddell (Christian) are in their cinematic personas. Or, perhaps they were as vilified in their own time for their Jewishness and Christianity as Tebow is being scoffed at now.

So what's a religious athlete to do? Why can't Tim Tebow seem to win here? Will he eventually get the same respect Sandy Koufax did for not pitching on the Sabbath or Reggie White for intimidating other teams' offensive lines on Sunday? Koufax was an observant Jew, and White was an ordained Christian minister.

Let Tim Tebow play football. While some athletes play the strutting-peacock role, notch their beds with willing partners whose names they won't remember in 30 days (or minutes), and make headlines for violating league policies on banned substances, let him live the conservative values his missionary parents taught him as a home-schooled Baptist child.

Please don't encourage Tebow to prove he is a peer to his pro colleagues by taunting him to violate his convictions or act more like a thug. If his religiosity seems a bit over the top and immature at times, make the same excuse for him as for the defensive back lined up against him who has fathered three children by three different women. He's trying to find his way in a confusing environment -- although doesn't his goal seem a lot more wholesome and uplifting?

This season is over for Tebow after being dominated by Tom Brady and the Patriots. Did God decide the outcome of that game? I suspect a seasoned pro quarterback with a superior supporting cast dictated the score. Not divine whim.

Time will tell if Tebow is a franchise player and a godly man. I don't have a clue about the former, but I am optimistic about (and praying for) the latter.

Posted: 01/20/2012 URL: http://www.heartlight.org/articles/201201/20120120_timtebow.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—

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