



Issue #141 February 15th, 2023 252-235-3868



I hope each of you enjoyed a great day of celebrating God's love to us and your love to each other on Valentine's Day. Jim Binney wrote a book titled Marriage Assurance. He has a chapter called "Love Insurance: Maintaining a "horse and carriage" relationship in a "Cyberspace Age." Dr. Binney starts the chapter with 1 Thessalonians 3:12-13 " And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: To the end, he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints."

For love to survive in a marriage it takes nurturing. Why do couples live in a loveless marriage when they can grow and abound in their love? The verses mentioned in 1 Thessalonians give some keys to a love-filled marriage.

- **Be spiritual:** "The Lord make you.." Love comes from God. It is spiritual at its core. As I mentioned this past Sunday, agape love can only be found in the Christian's heart. It is only possible through the Holy Spirit. The closer we get to Christlikeness, the more love we will be able to show the world and our mates.
- **Be Spirit-filled:** The fruit of the Spirit is love. It is fruitless to try and enjoy love without the filling of the Holy Spirit. And it is impossible to fulfill the God-given roles as husband and wife without the filling of the Holy Spirit. Notice the progression of Ephesians 5. Be filled with the Spirit comes before the descriptions of a wife, husband, and child.
- **Be prayerful:** Prayer is one of the greatest resources for growing love. Let me encourage everyone reading this newsletter to pray for love in their home. James 4:2 tells us that we "have not because we ask not."
- **Be studious:** Listen to what Paul wrote to the church at Philippi. Philippians 1:9 "And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment;" Become a student of biblical love.
- **Be active:** "Commit thy thoughts unto the Lord and thy thoughts shall be established." Proverbs 16:3. Our feelings of love can be kindled with our actions of love. You may not feel like giving an act of love on Valentine's Day. But because you do it anyway, a feeling of love can overcome you. How many times has someone given us a hug when we weren't in the mood for hugging? Yet, their act of love changed the way we felt.
- **Be Merciful:** "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." Matthew 5:7. God is telling us that when we show mercy to our spouse, we can receive mercy from Him.
- **Be committed:** Decide in your heart that your marriage will last until God calls one of you home. Mark 10:9 "What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder". We aren't to separate what God brought together. The first step in commitment to never consider divorce. Never bring up the word in a conversation. If someone brings up something that God forbids, then that person is suggesting sin. "Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners." 1 Cor. 15:33. Suggesting a divorce is enticing a wrong action that leads us away from God's perfect will.

According to Dr. Binney, these are all ideas that will provide love insurance. I would like to encourage each married person reading this newsletter to pray with your spouse today. Grab their hand and thank the Lord for giving you such a wonderful marriage partner.



## **Happy Valentine's Day!**

This past weekend the baptismal waters were stirred again. It was an honor to baptize Lauren and Kate Stone. These young ladies (and their parents) are such a blessing. I appreciate everyone who was able to be in the service to encourage their family.



The church is hosting a lot of activities this week. Let me remind you of the events happening at 3967 W. Hornes Church Rd.

- **Wednesday** Our mid-week Bible study. We will be continuing our study in Luke as we draw our attention to the discussion between the devil and Jesus during the forty days in the wilderness.
- **Thursday** The W.A.C. ladies will be meeting at the church. This meeting will start at 6:30 p.m.
- Thursday-The church will host three more basketball games starting at 7 p.m. Our two White Oak teams won both of their games last week. And as a reminder, the young people are serving hot dogs, popcorn, snacks, and beverages at the kitchen window. All the money raised will help support the cost for summer camp.
- **Saturday** Brother Jonathan will be taking several teenagers ice skating. They will be leaving the church at noon and returning at 3:00 p.m.
- **Sunday** The Miller Gospel Trio will be joining us this Sunday morning. The service will start at 10:30 p.m. The church will also be having Sunday School at the regular time. We hope you will take the opportunity to invite your neighbors and friends to hear this very talented musical group.

I will close this newsletter with a poem from Barbara Johnson's book," Pack Up Your Gloomees in a Great Big Box, then sit on the lid and laugh!"

BARBARA JOHNSON

I wish I had a box so big That every grouch I'd pack, And when I shut the lid, I'd see That none of them came back.

I'd lock it so securely
And I'd cast away the key,
And then I'd throw the box into
The deepest, deepest sea.

And in its place, I'd get a box The biggest I could find, And fill it up to the brim With everything that's kind. A box without a lock, of course,
And never any key.
For everything inside that box
Would then be offered free.

Smiles there'd be in plenty,
And twinkles for the eyes.
A face adorned with these would surely
Give a glad surprise.

And grateful words for joys received
I'd freely give away,
Thanksgiving songs to pass around
To cheer the dullest day.

The children would come running up
To share the good things found,
For the joys are so infectious
And there's enough to go around.

Oh, let us each begin to pack Our grouches right away, And open wide a box of praise To brighten every day.



Listed below are our prayer needs this week.

- **Kay Dew** Please continue to pray for our dear brother as he battles cancer.
- **Gregg Wall** Let's continue to pray for Gregg. He is back at work, but he not 100% healed.
- Patricia Register-Ms. Pat continues to need our prayers as she recovers from surgery.
- **Tim Riggs**-Please pray for our former pastor. His kidneys are not working, and he needs a kidney transplant.
- Melisa Belcher- Melissa is much better. Thank you for your prayers. But let's continue to pray until she is completely healthy.
- Bonnie Hayes-This is Glenda and Christi's aunt. God has been so good to Ms. Bonnie. She is home and doing really well.

- **Billy John Dew** Let's keep praying! His hemoglobin count is very low. As a result, he has no energy.
- Bailey Christian Childcare
- Glenda Carroll-Please pray for Glenda. The tumor seems to be stable, but she needs our prayers. Let's ask God to heal her and remove the brain tumor from her body. She also has been feeling very bad over the weekend.
- Teresa Medlin-She is recovering from pneumonia.
- **Dottie Massey** Ms. Dottie is getting better, but it's a slow recovery process.
- Lucille Beasley-Ms. Beasley is having some health problems and is in a rehabilitation center
- **Joyce Batchelor**-She is continuing to improve but still needs our prayers.
- The Patricia Lamm Family-Ms. Patricia Lamm passed away last week. She is a relative of the Boykin family.
- **Grace Fullerton**-Bonnie Joyner's granddaughter is having some serious medical issues and the doctors are trying to diagnose the problem.
- Alaina Blalock-She is the daughter of Collin and Ashley Blalock. They think she may have a rare lung disease. These are dear friends of Randy/Faye Bissette.
- **Taylor Grissom**-Taylor has just been accepted as a flight attendant for Frontier Airlines and will soon be headed to school. Let's pray for this young lady as she takes flight into a new career.

- **Faye Bottom**-This is Dottie Massey's cousin. She is in the hospital and Dottie asked us to pray for her.
- **Jean Jones**-Pastor's mom is being released from the rehab center on Wednesday.

Love in Christ,

Rev. Hal W. Jones III

Pastor Hal Galatians 2:20



February 8th
Wednesday Night 72
February 12th

Sunday School 84 Sunday Worship 141

## FREE CHRISTIAN RESOURCES

Three Ways to Register at RightNowMedia

#### Link

This link is easy to access to the church's account: <a href="https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/WHITEOAKH-ILL">https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/WHITEOAKH-ILL</a>

#### **Text Code**

This text code is easy to access to the church's account: WHITEOAKHILL can be texted to 49775.

#### QR Code

This scannable code is easy to access to the church's account.





## **Schedule of Services**

## Sunday

### **In-Person**

Sunday School at 9:30 AM Sunday Morning Worship at 10:30 AM

#### On-Line

Sunday Morning Online Service at 10:30 AM Sunday Evening Online Service Only at 6 PM

## Wednesday

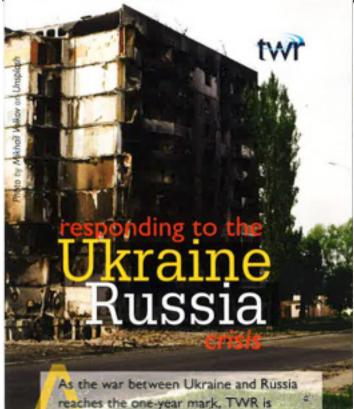
7 PM - Prayer, Praise & Bible Study Engage Youth, Propel Kids & Nursery

WOH Services can be seen on either:

Facebook - Hal Jones page White Oak Hill Free Will Baptist Church - Website White Oak Hill Free Will Baptist Church YouTube

# MISSIONS CORNER!

Please pray for these missionaries!



As the war between Ukraine and Russia reaches the one-year mark, TWR is renewing its commitment to making gospel programming available to people on both sides of the conflict. Our Ukrainian and Russian colleagues know they can count on the TWR family to provide prayer, logistics to beam programs into the war region from abroad, and resources to enable them to minister on the ground.

Within days of the first missiles flying and soldiers starting to march, supporters like you responded to our establishment of the Ukraine-Russia Crisis Fund. We thank you from the bottoms of our hearts, but more importantly, our teams in the warring nations know they can count on you when the going gets toughest.

# War zone

"We would love to go back to Ukraine [from Poland], but we don't have anyone there anymore. The house is destroyed. The family seems to be dead. ... We try to listen to your Polish broadcasts to learn the language faster. The important thing for us is that these are biblical programs."

A TWR listener in Poland

"I don't know how you manage to record the programs when the power supply is out of order. May God bless, keep and have mercy on you for your work that is so necessary for us, the listeners. The days pass in constant prayers for our soldiers, our leadership, our churches and our radio."

A TWR listener in Ukraine

"Thank you for your uninterrupted broadcasting of Thru the Bible and for Polish, Russian, Hebrew and Ukrainian prayers. I am afraid of this very bad war going on. I am a [retired] doctor. ... I consider it my medical duty to stay here. In the present crisis, many more people are asking themselves questions about the meaning of life, about God and faith. So I have the opportunity to direct them to your website to listen and read."

A TWR listener in Ukraine