

NEWSLINE

Great Smoky Mountains Church of Christ

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March 13, 2022

“Good To The Last Drop”

I don't remember many commercials from childhood, but one I have never forgotten is Maxwell House's infamous advertisement which promised that their coffee was “*Good to the last drop!*” Maybe the reason I still like that coffee is because of that promise which is deeply imbedded in my memory.

The Christian life is like that. It is good to the last drop. Even though the beginning may be exciting and filled with anticipation, the real excitement comes at the end of the race. In Hebrews 12:1 we are told to lay aside every sinful constraint and run with patience the “race that is set before us.” The victory comes at the finish line.

John Stephen Akhwari was a marathon runner from Tanzania in the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. Not only did he finish last, he came into the stadium more than an hour after everyone else. In fact, most of the spectators had left the stadium. Akhwari had injured his leg along the way and, although he was bleeding and bandaged, he kept going until he reached the finish line.

When asked why he kept running with his injury and excruciating pain, Akhwari replied, “*My country did not send me to Mexico City to start the race. They sent me to finish.*”

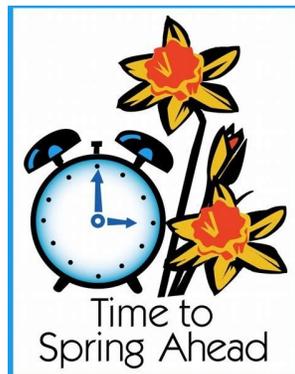
I have always struggled with the tendency to drive faster as I

am approaching my home when returning from a long trip. There's something about reaching that final destiny. Anticipation mounts for Christians who are approaching the finish line. We are never too old to keep growing and serving with excitement.

The church needs older saints who have weathered the storms, struggled through hard times and won. We need those whose faith has never failed them, whose love has never dimmed. We need those who believe that the best is at the bottom of the cup.

We also need younger Christians who commit for the long haul, who are determined to reach the finish line in faithful service. We need those who never let up even when injury comes or when the spectators leave. God has not called us to start the race, but to finish it.

—Al



Other News

-**Danny and Polly** will remain in Blue Ridge, GA until his last follow-up visit on March 31st for his eye surgery. He is continuing to see double but this should clear up. They also are waiting for repairs to their house after a tree fell on their roof doing damage to the roof and inside their house. Please keep them in prayer.

-**Report from India:** Raja reports that 3 days of gospel meeting with attendance of around 1500 resulted in 14 baptisms. Continue to pray for this work.

-**Church Directory:** If you don't know how to access the church directory please view directions in the email sent to your inbox. If you have trouble please see Mark Haynes or Tracey Kihlberg.

-**Monday Night Ladies Class** postponed (Spring Break) until first Monday night in April (April 24).

Sermon Topics: A.M.—“No Ordinary Man, No. 5—What Is God Like?” (Al)
P.M.—“The Reluctant Prophet” (Al)

UKRAINE RESPONSE

Last Sunday we participated in a Family Bucket list drive to assist refugees from Ukraine. Ten five gallon buckets were filled and were delivered to the Hardin-Valley church on Monday, along with about \$1500 in cash and checks. At that time around 250 buckets had been filled and enough additional items given to fill about 50 more.

These buckets were being shipped through middle Tennessee to be combined with others collected and shipped to a seaport to be loaded into 40 ft, long cargo containers and shipped to Poland. The Polish government has agreed to transport the items to refugee camps.

Our thanks to everyone who helped. If you would like to send a donation to help brothers and sisters remaining in Ukraine, the Winfield, Alabama congregation is collecting funds. Their address is:

Winfield Church of Christ
P.O. Box 730
Winfield, AL 35594

Sunday Adult Class

A Study in Acts

Al Behel

Teen Class

Jacob Forman

Wednesday Night Class

Danny Cline—Colossians

Monday Night Ladies Study

Topic: “O To Be Like Thee”

Mondays, 6:45 pm

Teacher: Polly Cline

Times of Services

Sunday A.M.
Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM
Sunday P.M. 6:00 PM
Wednesday 7:00 PM

Food Contact For Month:

Polly Cline

Elder Contact for Month:

Jim Anderson 865-924-1067

Online worship: available on church website or FB page

Our Known Sick

June McGowen, is in Pigeon Forge Nursing Home.

-**Linda Valentine**— battling cancer.

-**Anna Ruth Franklin**— Prayers for several health issues.

FRIENDS & FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS

-Keep **Tracey's dad and mom, Ron and Judy Pitts,** in your prayers.

Their address is: 313 Monticello Rd., Franklin, TN 37064

-**Treavor Hayes,** 7 year old grandson of Marc and Sue is receiving treatment through a port which has been installed to make his treatment easier. He has a tumor on optic nerve. Please keep him in prayer.

-**George Tolliver's sister, Mosie Simpson,** is battling COPD. She is staying with her son. Prayers still needed.

-Shannon Wade requests prayers for **Harley Tucker,** who is a 24 year old friend of their family, She is battling breast cancer. She lives in MS.

-**Tricia Hayes'** mother, Debbie Odham, has been diagnosed with leukemia with only months to live. Her father is also struggling with COPD and is in critical condition. Please keep Tricia and her family in prayer.

-**Larry Sanderson,** Al's brother-in-law, lost a significant amount of his eyesight. We are happy to report that some of his sight is returning in one eye. Please keep Larry and Helen in your prayers.

Fellowship Dinner & Meetings: postponed until next Sunday, March 20 due to snow and roads. Men & ladies meetings will be immediately after the dinner.

Men: fellowship and sharing session each Tuesday night at 7

Building Loan Balance

\$632,871.05

Additional contributions to building fund are appreciated

Archived sermons are available on the church website or at albehel.com