

It couldn't have come at a better time

From time to time we all receive criticism and are all probably guilty of giving it as well. Criticism is never fun or enjoyable to receive, but it seems to be easy to give. I received a letter, just a few days ago, thanking those responsible for the Vigil. In this letter is said "It (Vigil) could not have come at a better time". That compliment made me think of the many things that can be done to encourage that always seem appropriate and to arrive in the "nick of time".

It is always a good time for **acts of kindness**. It could be a candy bar or a cup of coffee. It could be a yard cleaned or a dog fed. It could be a sweet smile or shoulder to cry on. It could be time spent with someone in a hospital or at simply at their home. It could be a simple note to say I Love You, or I'm praying for you, or even you lift me up. It could be sharing a picture of a child or remembering someone's birthday or anniversary. Whatever "it" is, know that it could be a ray of hope or a light shining in darkness for someone else. It breaks the barriers of despair and shields us from cutting words that would penetrate and destroy. They may come from our closest friends or from someone we barely know. And we can all say, "It couldn't have come at a better time"!

It is always a good time for **words of encouragement**. There will always be those who seem to know exactly what to say and when to say it. I have been privileged to work with some elders and others who I felt like had this special ability. It just seemed they knew the perfect words at the perfect time. Words of encouragement come straight from the heart and speak straight to the heart of the one hurting. We can all learn to speak words that are going to make a huge difference to others. How long has it been since we encouraged the elders by saying, "Thank you and you are doing a great job"? How long has it been since you told a teacher just how much your child is learning from them? Have you told those guys who mow the grass, "That lawn looks wonderful"? Find someone today to give them some words of encouragement because, "It couldn't have come at a better time"!

It is always a good time **for prayers**. For some reason we have developed the attitude that prayer is the least we can do. That is wrong! Prayer is the greatest thing we can do. Our Savior said, "Ask and it shall be given you..." (Matthew 7:7). Prayers calm the hysterical. Prayers sooth the aching hearts. Prayers ascend to the throne of God, our Father and Creator! During sad times and happy times prayers are always appropriate. Prayers bring comfort, hope, and strength. Without our prayers, what would we have? We can all say, that prayer couldn't have come at a better time!

I know one thing. When these acts of kindness, words of encouragement, and prayers are said on my behalf, "It couldn't have come at a better time"! See you Sunday.

Ronnie

PRAYER LIST

Fay Brown is at Princeton in room 1319

Sam Swiney is at Princeton in MICU

Janice Key is home recovering from surgery

Dan Pulley is at UAB in ICU

Long Term Needs

David Burford, Sara Morgan, Ramona Yeilding

Gertrude Blackwell, Ruby Glidewell, Earl Martin,

Ruth Parsons, Annette Roddy, Bernice Snow, Glenn

Terry

Military

Please remember the following who are currently serving for our country: **Tyler Burger, Mark Davis, Chris Ham & Chris Pridmore**



Please remember in your prayers!

Our Lads and Leaderettes and many of our congregation will be traveling on the busy highways this weekend to Nashville, keep them in your prayers that they will have a safe trip, and bring home the **AWARDS**.

THANK ABOUT IT

We have a large selection of tracts with wonderful, current themes from the Bible in the Library and our tract racks. Let's Use Them! Ways to use our tracts, booklets, and magazines: Just put 2 or 3 at a time, (check later to see if they are gone) in waiting rooms at hospitals, doctor's offices, and beauty shops. Also take some to our shut-ins, (the family reads them) or to our assisted living homes, yard sales, grocery stores, restaurants, funeral homes, and ball games. Consider taking them to any waiting areas at jails, prisons, rest areas, and truck stops. There are a great many ways we can spread the gospel with these great tracts, booklets and magazines. We all can do this to help spread the gospel of Christ to those we come in contact with.

Jeanette Jackson

Mark Your Calendar/2009

Apr. 10-11 -- Lads/Leaders Nashville

Apr. 16--Kennages trip to Bass Pro Shop in Leeds, Al.

Apr. 17-18 -- Prom Alternative

Apr. 25 -- Ladies' Day with **Cindy Colley**

May 8-9 -- Men's Retreat

June 7-10 -- Gospel Meeting: **Ken Tyler**

July 5-10 -- Ronnie's week @ICYC

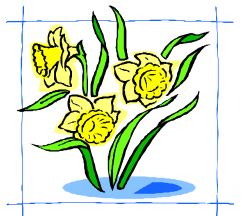
July 26-29 -- VBS

Oct. 11-14 -- Gospel Meeting:

Curtis A. Cates

Oct. 17 -- Family Fun Day @ Tannehill

Dec. 31 -- New Year's Eve Singing



LAD/LEADERS

All Bible Bowl Teams there will be a final test on all 24 chapters, after services Wednesday night. Please bring finger foods desserts, and drinks.

News and Notes

Visitation Team #2 will not meet on Sunday.

Your worksheets will be handed out by your team captain on the Sunday night. Please continue this good work.

Keenagers, your next trip is to The Bass Pro Shop in Leeds, on Thursday, April 16, 2009. The bus will leave at 10:15AM. We will eat lunch at the Irondale Cafe. The cost will be \$2.00. See the sign up sheet on the table in the foyer.

