August 7, 2024

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Next Issue: Aug 21, 2024

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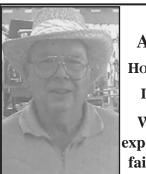
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7343 Old Clarksville Pike Joelton, TN 37080

## Gospel Meeting

Speaker: David Thacker

#### SUNDAY MORNING

SUNDAY EVENING It Is Always Too Soon To Quit Choose Trust Text: 2 Corinthians 4:16-17 Matthew 6:25-34

#### MONDAY

Halting The Chariot Acts 8:25-39

#### TUESDAY

Give Me The Bible Psalm 119

The Sweetest Fellowship This Side Of Heaven

WEDNESDAY

1 John 3:1-3

### Song Leader: Ray Ragland August 25th - 28th

Sunday - 9am classes | 10am & 3pm worship | 2pm singing Monday through Wednesday - 7pm





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You're invited to worship with us 10 a.m. Sunday at Bethel Church of Christ or on our Facebook page.

Thank you to all who let me help sell or buy this year. Call me for all your real estate needs. I love what I do!



August 7, 2024

Wanda Boyte



#### 769 MCCURDY RD. WHITE HOUSE, TN

Lovely 2900+ sq ft Home on 2.96 Acres
This home features a Living Room, Dining
Room, Eat-In Kitchen, 3 BR, 2 Full Baths
(Jack & Jill upstairs), 2 half baths, Lg
bonus room, Screened Sunroom, Two Car
attached Garage, and Lg separate
Workshop/Garage. It has an underground
dog fence on 1 1/2 acres, shade trees and
loverly landscaping. Make this your
forever home.

\$657,900



## 7424 BIDWELL RD., JOELTON 3 BR/2.5 BA, 2 ACRES

A 20 minute drive to Nashville but Enjoy this Country Setting. New Carpet, Ceramic Tile, Granite Counter Tops, Paint, New Garage Door, New French Door going to New Deck New Windows, New H & A in Bonus Room, New Front Door. \$489,000 ~ MLS #2654911

After Going Active, Under Contract in one day!

home on approx 1 acre, 2344 Sq. Ft. This well kept home offers a beautiful landscaped yard and exceptional pool area you can enjoy all summer. This is a 38'x18' Saltwater pool. Plenty of room for your family in this 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath home and entertain your family and friends by the fireplace in the extra large 25x25 foot Bonus Room. \$557,900 ~ MLS #2643457



## First Baptist Church Joelton

## Sundays Services 9:30 & 11:00 am

on Campus or livestream

#### Connect to Small Group Bible Study

Small Groups are available for all ages at 8:30 am and 9:30 am



7140 Whites Creek Pike, Joelton, TN / www.fbcjoelton.org

#### Wednesdays

5:00 pm Family Fellowship Café

6:00 pm KOW (Preschool & Children), Youth Worship (Middle & High School), Adult Discipleship Groups, Adult Bible Study, Adult Choir

> Check out all our Events Here



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   DDS
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  - Hillcrest Healthcare Center
  - TriStar NorthCrest Medical Center
- Pleasant View Family Healthcare
- Regents Medical Center

- Pleasant View Children's Clinic
- Children's Dental Health Center of Pleasant View
  - Ashland City Dental
- Highland Family Dental
  - Kids First Pediatrics
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- Hnh Wellness Center
- Family Health Center of Ashland City
- Heart Starters CPR Training
- Pleasant View Primary Care



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**Patty Kenned**Broker, GRI, CRS

Office: 615-792-1910

Mobile: 615-406-9494





This log home (logs from East TN mountains) in Dover comes completely furnished and sleeps 10. Vaulted ceiling , wood burning rock FP. Community boat launch on Kentucky Lake/TN River, private air strip. Seasonal lake views.



Custom built home on 6.53 acres. Walnut floors, solid wood doors. New kitchen stainless appliances, oak custom craft cabinets. 3 large BRs. Pool with slide. 2 car garage, aggregate drive. Maintained with 1 year old HVAC, 5 year old roof. Stocked pond.



One-owner home, original hardwood floors, wood burning FP (converted for wood burning stove, not included), updated windows, sitting on a 1acre lot. 1164 sq. ft. Wall heaters, window AC. Currently on well, public water available. Two-bay building for storage or hobby space. Be in Nashville or Springfield in minutes.



New Custom all Brick Home. Vaulted ceiling in LR with FP. Crown molding in Main BR with trey ceiling, large tile shower w/seat. Custom cabinets with granite tops in kitchen, baths. Stainless appls. Bonus room has a large closet, full bath that could be a private 4th BR. Oversized 2 car att garage, 16x20 deck.



Home in need of repair but appears to be livable. Full basement. Level lot. Creek out back. Fenced front yard. Det 2 car garage/barn. Additional building. Handicap ramp to front door. Will not pass FHA, VA, USDA, etc. In a flood zone due to creek. Cash preferred.



This 2 bed, 1 bath mobile home is in the heart of Ashland City. LR hall, BRs have new carpet. Fresh paint. Level yard (2 city lots). Large front deck. Concrete patio. Walking distance to hospital, CEMC, new City Hall being built. Across street from new Fire Dept. Move-in ready. Personal home or rental property. Home next door also for sale.



PARADISE ON THE RIVER

Custom cedar home with everything you'll want or need for total upscale comfort and relaxation...the perfect river resort with stunning views of sunsets and landscape. Enjoy a personal private retreat or entertain the masses. There is too much to tell, so check out the MLS listing #2633376.



Country charmer in the heart of Ashland City. LR hall, BRs have new carpet. Fresh paint. Level yard (2 city lots). Newer windows. Concrete patio. Walking distance to hospital, CEMC, new City Hall being built. Across street from new Fire Dept. Move-in ready. Personal home or rental property. Home next door also for sale.



Very nice 2.11 acre level lot with a Joelton address. Culvert already in place. Home next door is listed for over a million dollars and is under contract. Owner terms considered . Call or see MLS listing for specific information.



Own a duplex in downtown AC and/or live in one side and let the other side help pay your expenses. Both interiors freshly painted. Metal roof (2022 per current owner). Full basement for more units (as neighboring properties have completed) or to be rented for storage. Ample concrete parking. Move-in ready!



3 BR, 2 Ba home with treed yard. Brick ranch on 1.95+/- acres. Open plan, hardwood floors in both LR and kitchen ,with granite counters. New paint throughout. New carpet in spare bedrooms. Roof and hot water tank approximately 1 year old. Large screened deck. 30x30 barn, 35x50 shop with lift, attached garages to accommodate four vehicles



6000 sq ft open building minutes to I-24. Concrete floor. Small room, half bath also. Two 5 ton gas units recently added. LED lighting. Small apartment behind rents for \$750.00 (must have 48hr notice to show). One bedroom, one bath, small kitchenette, living room. Also, two semi-trailers and dock, or seller will remove. Paved parking.

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But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

1 Thessalonians 4: 13&14







7982 Whites Creek Pk., Joelton, TN 37080

Pastor, Hubert Cunningham

(615) 707-2969

Worship Service 10:00 am Sunday School: 9:00 am



4318 Brick Church Pk. Whites Creek, TN 37189
Pastor, Linda Furtado

Sunday School: 10:00 am | Worship Service: 11:00 am

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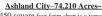
ettsville,TN—1.400 Acres- Privacy is paramou providing a serene backdrop for your envisione Vert, despite its secluded charm, this land remai niently close to all amenities, ensuring effortles to shopping, dining, and entertainment options, with easy connectivity to I-65, commuting

Plus, with easy consectivity to I-65, commuting becomes a breeze, opening up endless ossibilities for work and leisure. Embrace the eas of urban living with all services readily available, including public sewer, simplifying the building process and enhancing the value of your investment. Don't miss this opportunity to create he lifestyle you've always dreamed of or secure a lucrative \$89,500



Ashland City – 3BR-2BA –1810sqft – ome to the Luxury Townhomes of Crockett Hills ed just 9 minutes from Briley Parkway, you can located just 9 minutes from Belley Parksway, you can enjoy the convenient access to severthing Nashville 16 to offer without the higher property taxes the only 3 E townhome in Ashhand City that also offers a 2 Car Garage Inviting Foyer and Master Suite on Main floo Market and Carlon of the Carlon of the Carlon of the Tib and Separate Tiled Shower Open Kitchen/Dining/Living on 2nd Floor Kitchen comple with pendant lights over beautiful granite island and Stainless Appliances, Hardwood Floors Through on except for tiled but floors, Spacious Laundry Koon Ballon of the Carlon of the Carlon of the Carlon of the Colors, Monthly HOA Fees to be determined.

\$409,900



1450 square foot farm shop is a versatile space, equipped with essential amenities such s water, electricity, HVAC, a kitchenette, and a full bathroom. This multifunctional area provides the perfect setting for pursuing obbies, storing equipment, or even convertir into a cozy workspace. The presence of a fenced perimeter, along with a beautiful entrance,

\$1,600,000



Ashland City,TN-68.291 Acres-

\$999,000



Ashland City.TN- 1.000 Acres
Two (2) lots selling together of flat
land in great commercial area-located
across from Elementary School and
on the same road as Self-storage,
Funeral Home, Mechanic Shop and
within sight of McDonalds-208' of
road from the between the two lots in road frontage between the two lots in a growing downtown area~owner occupy one lot and use the other for investment purposes. \$389,000



3 Beds, 2.5 Baths,

ASIMAN LIVY - 3 Beds. 2.5 Baths, 2.5 Baths, 2.5 Baths, 2.5 Baths, 2.5 Baths, 2.6 Baths,

\$235,000



Ashland City,TN- 1BD-1 BA-731sqft- ONE LEVEL flat condo located near rear of complex-Brand NEW appliances~OPEN living/kitchen floorplan-gas FIREPLACE for when the weather cools-laminate floors throughout~NO CAPET~End unit that features a private patio off the master suite~2 parking spaces \$219,900

Clarksville,TN-3BD,1/1BA,1681SqFt
This charming abode boasts an inviting ambig

Clarksville,TM-. 3BD.1/IBA.1681\(\sigma\) for This charming abode boasts an inviting ambiance with its classic all-brick exterior, situated perfectly on a corner lot to provide both space and privacy. As you step inside, prepare to be captivated by the elegance of hardwood floors that grace the living room and bedrooms, offering a warm and welcoming atmosphere throughout bonus room off the kitchen awaits, complete with a charming brick fireplace that exudes warmth and character. This versatile space can be transformed into a family room, home office, or even a cozy reading nook the possibilities are endless.

\$220,000

\$290,000



Burns,TN-2,000Acres. This land consists of picturesque 2 acre plots that serve as a canvas for building your ide casts with a view of a beautiful pond. These bits offer personal haven of serenly where you can roam freely engage in gardening, or bring your creative visions to lift he location encourages you to enhance the allure of nature while benefiting from the convenience of nearb amerilles. This land is more than just a piece of proper It is described as your escape, your vision, and your to see that the property of self-property of the property of



Ashland City-5.230 Acres -

This hilltop estate is truly a stunning & picturesque piece of land, offering a magnificent setting for those seeking nparalleled natural beauty & scenic views. It basts breathtaking vistas that will leave you in awe. The most striking feature of this property s its mesmerizing river views, extending over 6 miles. The river scenery adds a sense of tranquility and serenity, providing a constant source of inspiration & a connection with nature \$300,000



Nunnelly,TN -11.920Acres-

ver 1428' of road frontage~build your dream home or this almost 12 acre mini-farm~opportunities don't come en often in Richey Farms so grab it now~subdivision strictions allow for 2 HOMES to be built per lot (see active in finding section)—ctv water, etection, at its pites (coming live soon) at the road–multiple places build on this lot~Convenient to Nashville, Dickson, Leipers Fork, Franklin, and Columbia

\$115,000



Chapmansboro.TN-5.000AcresThis land represents an excellent opportunity to build your home in a pryade and picturesque setting. With utilines readily available at the road, septic approvant pictures, wooded charm with pastoral beauty, this property is a blank chawas awaiting your vision and creativity. The topography of the land is gently rolling, adding a touch of the providing potential for landscaping and design. This subtle terrain variation can be harnessed to create a unique and picturesque setting for your future home.

\$180.000



shland City - 2000Sqft- Currently used as law office and previously a shoe store with apartment upstairs~all brick building in the apartment upstarrs—all brick building in the center of a growing downtown area-has dedicated parking behind the building or city parking at the street-handicap accessible entrance-reception area.office, conference room and 2 restrooms on main floor-3 office conference area and kitchenette upstairs—hardwood and tile floors—shown by appt only please do not disturb current tenants

\$400,000



Ashland City,TN-~1.060Acres-Come take a look at Commercial operty in an area that is growing and expanding~adjacent lot also for sale~high traffic area just down from Walmart shopping center,Taco Bell,Hampton Inn and Waffle House ~main 4 lane highway that goes from

Nashville to Clarksville~property not in a flood zone per seller, <u>\$800,000</u>



Charlotte,TN -5BD-5BA-58465441Indulge in the ultimate relaxation within the rimary suite, featuring a spacious walk-in closet to accommodate your wardrobe needs. The large apple storage space, while the

to accommodate your wardrobe needs. The large pantry ensures ample storage space, while the tainless steel kitchen appliances elevate both style & functionality/Discover convenience in the second owner suite, boasting its own walk-in loset complete w a dedicated shoes shelf. But that tot all – this home is equipped w a unique bunker that presents endless possibilities as well as an encapulated crawlspace.

\$999,000



Ashland City = 2.010Acres This hilltop estate is truly a stunning & picturesque piece of land, offering a magnificent setting for those seeking unparalleled natural beauty & scenic views It boasts breathtaking vistas that will leave you in awe. The most striking feature of this property is its mesmerizing river views, extending over 6 miles. The river scenery adds a sense of tranquility and serenity, providing a constant source of inspiration & a constant source of inspiration & a connection with nature.

\$\frac{2}{2}\times 2000 \text{ (most picture)} \text{ (most p

\$250,000



Jackson, TN — 3 Beds, 2 Baths, 1200SqFt — The kitchen is a dream, showcasing sleek stainle

The kitchen is a fram, showcasing sleek stainle el applances that blend seamlessly with the mod aesthetic. A tile backsplash adds a touch of sophistication, perfectly complementing the contemporary design. Indulge in relaxation in the contemporary design. Indulge in relaxation with the contemporary design. Indulge in relaxation with the content of t

\$199,000



Tennessee Ridge ~ 5 Acres
Unrestricted with road frontage on two roads, open land with several nice building sites-some fencing-Beautiful views-mature trees-some open pastures for farming, cattle, etc-would also make great hunting area-total of 30 acres for sale listed in 6 separate tracts-MLS #s. 1,2451412, 2451413, 2451414

17acts-WIL3 #8 1,24-01412, 24-01413, 24-01414 2451416,2451417-buyer will need to get perk completed and septic installed-taxes to be figured at closing-City water at corner of Dr. Barnes & Clyde Webb

\$45,000



Charlotte-3 Acres-Recently surveyed and recently obtained a 5 bed septic permit this beautifully partially wooded beautifully partially wooded property has a great building site ready for you and complete with vater tap on property-only minute from the interstate, shopping, schools and grocery-buyer will need to install a septic system

\$299,900



Cedar Hill,TN - 11.100Acres-The potential of this property is

endless~envision a Cracker Barrell endless-envision a Cracker Barrell, Waffle House, gas station, industrial park, business park, shopping complex, or maybe a combination of all of these-level property with 1130'+ of road frontage on main hwy to interstate-grab this opportunity before the growth hits-unbelievable proportunity awaits

opportunity awaits \$3,500,000

## **Bethel Church of Christ**

7815 Whites Creek Pike, Joelton Tennessee 37080

Contact us at 615-681-9663 or visit our website at bethelcofc.com

We are Live Streaming each Sunday Morning Worship Service @ 10:00 a.m.

Access on our Facebook Page or go to the website and click on "About".



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In Person Worship 10:00 am with Live Stream on Facebook Page
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with Live Streaming on our Facebook Page

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Address to be posted in September issue of Joelton Shopper

















### ESTATE SALE ~ SAT., SEPT. 21ST @ 9AM

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Address to be posted in September issue of Joelton Shopper



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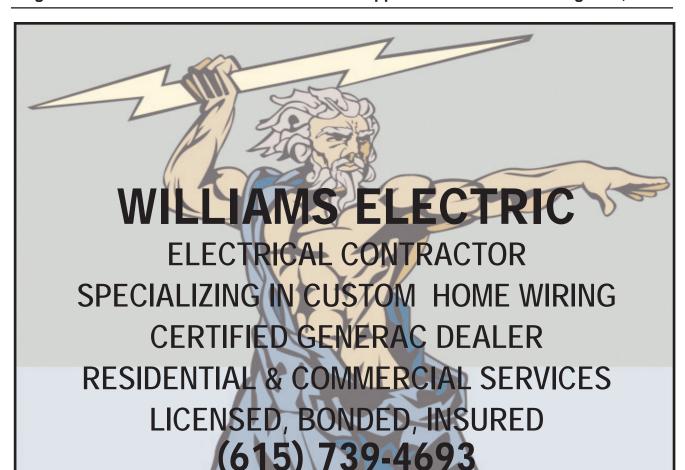
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114 Frey Street, Ashland City, TN 37015

#### COMING SOON IN WHITES CREEK

All Brick 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath home on a 1.30 Acre Lot. Open Floorplan in the Den, Kitchen, Living and Dining Room areas. Bamboo flooring, Main Bath has upgraded tile and double vanity

sinks. Large Covered Back Deck, 2 Car Attached Garage & a 1 Car Detached Garage. Large Storage Building Remains. Call for all the details -

\$385,000



#### LOCATED IN THE HEART OF ASHLAND CITY

Cottage Style Home with Covered Front Porch has 2 Bedrooms and 1 Bath. The Home was Recently Updated with New Flooring, New

Bathroom and Stainless Appliances. 2 Car Detached Carport and Metal Roof. Within Walking Distance to Post Office, Restaurants, Banks, Elementary School and More.





#### 6.37 ACRES in DOVER TENNESSEE

Wooded 6.37 Acre lot with View of Lake Barkley. Located on River Road off of Bumpus Mills Road. Just minutes to Land Between the Lakes and Paris Landing State Park and Marina. Priced at \$57,500





#### **DOVER TENNESSEE - COME TO THE LAKE!!**

Log Cabin located in small Community that has it's own Private Airstrip & Community Boat Launch. The home has 2 BR, 1-1/2 BA, open Living Room, Kitchen, Dining area on main level, upper level is large loft, home can sleep up to 10 people. Large level lot with seasonal lake views. \$369,900

### JOELTON CHURCH OF CHRIST

3541 Old Clarksville Pike. Joelton, TN. 37080

## JOELTON RECOVERY GROUP

(DRUGS & ALCOHOL)
Tuesday 7pm - 8pm

### **Grief Support**

9am Sundays 615-876-0510

## ADVERTISING POLICIES

The editor reserves the right to edit or refuse any advertising copy submitted for publication and shall not be liable for advertisements omitted for any reason. No ad will be accepted without a contact name and phone number. Advertisements do not necessarily reflect the view of the editor. The advertiser assumes sole liability for all content of advertisements.

## What's Cooking?

#### **Baked Garlic Parmesan Potato Wedges**

- 3 large russet potatoes, sliced into wedges
- 4 Tablespoons olive oil
- $\frac{1}{2}$  c. parmesan cheese, salt to taste
- 2 tsp. Italian seasoning
- 2 tsp. garlic powder
- 2 tsp. paprika

Slice potatoes into wedges. Place potato wedges in a large bowl, drizzle olive oil & toss to coat. Sprinkle potato wedges with shredded cheese and toss again.

In small bowl mix salt, Italian seasoning, garlic powder and paprika. Sprinkle seasoning onto potato wedges and toss to coat. Place potatoes on a baking sheet with skin sides down. Bake 40 minutes @ 400 deg. until potatoes are fork tender and golden....ENJOY!

## What's Cooking Chess Pie

1/2 c. butter melted

- 1 Tbsp. vinegar
- 3 eggs, beaten well
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- 1 tsp. flour
- 1 tsp. corn meal
- 1 1/2 c. sugar

Pie Crust

Combine ingredients and pour into unbaked pie crust. Bake at 300 deg. until brown, approx 30 to 40 minutes. Reduce oven to 200 deg. and continue baking for 40 minutes

Eva Green

## Featured Listings



4437 Thomasville Rd. Chapmansboro, TN 37035

4 bed, 2 bath 2,178 sq. ft. 9.8 acres

2009 Azalea Ct. Ashland City, TN 37015

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#### "Angels In The Classroom"

A pastor read a letter from an elementary school teacher who attends East Hill Church. The gist of the letter was as follows:

Last school year, her classroom was made up of little third graders of which every one of them came from either a single parent family or a dysfunctional family. Some of them were undernourished and/or not cared for. Also, there were some that lived in an abusive home in which they were beaten, bruised, or raped by other family members. One little girl's dad had died of aids, and the list goes on. Her heart bled for these kids.

Before the 1999-2000 school year started, she and her husband went to her classroom and prayed over each desk in the room. They prayed that God would place an angel behind each and every child throughout the coming year to watch over them and protect them. A month or so after the year had started she gave the kids an assignment to write about what they would like to be when they grew up. Everybody was busy with his or her assignment, when Andrew raised his hand. When she asked him what he needed, he asked how to spell mighty. After telling him how to spell mighty, she asked him why he needed to know, and Andrew said it was because when he grew up he wanted to be a mighty man of God.

When he said this, little Mark sitting next to him asked, "So, what's a mighty man of God?" The teacher, swallowing back her tears, and knowing she could not say anything in the classroom about God, told Andrew to go ahead and tell Mark what it was. So Andrew said: "It's a man who puts on the armor of God and is a soldier for God."

After observing some conversation between Andrew and Mark, the teacher, with a lump in her throat, she started to walk away when Andrew motioned with his little forefinger for her to come closer. He whispered to her, asking if she believed in angels. She told him yes, she did. Then he asked her if she thought people could see angels, and she said she thought some people probably could. Andrew said that he did, and he could see an angel standing behind each kid in the room...

I don't think there was a dry eye in the church that night! We need to remember to pray for all of our teachers and educators; that although there is no prayer in school, that they are dedicated enough to pray for the protection of God's angels over the lives of their students. Maybe it wouldn't hurt to pray for angels at your work, too.

Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven. Matthew 18:10

Author, Unknown

## TWELVE MOST WANTED MEN

- 1. Men who will put God's business above other business.
- 2. Men who will take their children to a fundamental Bible-believing church, rather than sending them or dropping them off.
- 3. Men who are willing to walk out their faith and be their example to his family and others.
- 4. Men who think more of their spiritual growth than the sporting events on TV.
- 5. Men who give monetarily knowing it all belongs to God.
- Men who seek to serve others rather than always wanting to be served.
- 7. Men willing to use their talents for God rather than to just impress those around the office.
- Men who can see their own faults before they see the faults of others.
- 9. Men who are more concerned about Christ than winning worldly honors.
- 10. Men who are willing to put their families first after their relationship to Lord.
  - 11. Men willing to spend quality time with their families rather than channel surfing.
    - 12. Men willing to pray for and with their family.

You may think those girls are talking about the way you look.

Or, that boy over there thinks you're ugly.

But, I'm here to let you know none of those people care about what you're wearing or the way you look.

Those Girls that you may think are mean and pretty really are not paying attention to you, because they are going crazy thinking about the way they look and what other people think.

So the next time you decide not to wear an outfit because you're scared of what people will think, I want you to put on that outfit and hold your head high and remember "YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL".

Enjoy life, because you only have one life to live.

By: Sadie Green

Trust in the Lord with all thine heart.

Lean not unto thine own understanding.

In all thy ways acknowledge Him and

He shall direct thy path.

Proverbs 3:5

## Parl's Garden

Carl was a quiet man. He didn't talk much. He would always greet you with a big smile and a firm handshake. Even after living in our neighborhood for over 50 years, no one could really say they knew him very well. Before his retirement, he took the bus to work each morning. The lone sight of him walking down the street often worried us. He had a slight limp form a bullet wound received in WWII. Watching him, we worried that although he had survived WWII, he may not make it through our changing uptown neighborhood with its ever-increasing random violence, gangs, and drug activity.

When he saw the fiver at our local church asking for volunteers for caring for the gardens behind the minister's residence, he responded in his characteristically unassuming manner. Without fanfare, he just signed up. He was well into his 87th year when the very thing we had always feared finally happened. He was just finishing his watering for the day when three gang members approached him. Ignoring their attempt to intimidate him, he simply asked, "Would you like a drink from the hose?" The tallest and toughest-looking of the three said, "Yeah, sure," with a malevolent little smile. As Carl offered the hose to him, the other two grabbed Carl's arm, throwing him down. As the hose snaked crazily over the ground, dousing everything in its way. Carl's assailants stole his retirement watch and his wallet, and then fled. Carl tried to get himself up, but he had been thrown down on his bad leg. He lay there trying to gather himself as the minister came running to help him. Although the minister had witnessed the attack from his window, he couldn't get there fast enough to stop it. "Carl, are you okay? Are you hurt?" the minister kept asking as he helped Carl to his feet. Carl just passed a hand over his brow and sighed, shaking his head. "Just some punk kids. I hope they'll wise up someday." His wet clothes clung to his slight frame as he bent to pick up the hose. He adjusted the nozzle again and started to water. Confused and a little concerned, the minister asked, "Carl, what are you doing?" I've got to finish my watering. It's been very dry lately" came the calm reply. Satisfying himself that Carl really was all right, the minister could only marvel. Carl was a man from a different time and place. A few weeks later the three returned. Just as before their threat was unchallenged. Carl again offered them a drink from his hose. This time they didn't rob him. They wrenched the hose from his hand and drenched him head to foot in the icy water. When they had finished their humiliation of him, they sauntered off down the street, throwing catcalls and curses, falling over one another laughing at the hilarity of what they had just done. Carl just watched them. Then he turned toward the warmth giving sun, picked up his hose, and went on with his watering.

Parl's Garden (cont.)

The summer was quickly fading into fall. Carl was doing some tilling when he was startled by the sudden approach of someone behind him. He stumbled and fell into some evergreen branches. As he struggled to regain his footing, he turned to see the tall leader of his summer tormentors reaching down for him. He braced himself for the expected attack. "Don't worry old man, I'm not gonna hurt you this time." The young man spoke softly, still offering the tattooed and scarred hand to Carl. As he helped Carl get up, the man pulled a crumpled bag from his pocket and handed it to Carl. "What's this?" Carl asked. "It's your stuff," the man explained. "It's your stuff back. Even the money in your wallet." "I don't understand," Carl said. "Why would you help me now?" The man shifted his feet, seeming embarrassed and ill at ease. "I learned something from you," he said. "I ran with that gang and hurt people like you. We picked you because you were old and we knew we could do it. But every time we came and did something to you, instead of yelling and fighting back, you tried to give us a drink. You didn't hate us for hating you. You kept showing love against our hate." He stopped for a moment. "I couldn't sleep after we stole your stuff, so here it is back." He paused for another awkward moment, not knowing what more there was to say. "That bag's my way of saying thanks for straightening me out, I guess." And with that, he walked off down the street. Carl looked down at the sack in his hands and gingerly opened it. He took out his retirement watch and put it back on his wrist. Opening his wallet, he checked for his wedding photo. He gazed for a moment at the young bride that still smiled back at him from all those years ago.

He died one cold day after Christmas that winter. Many people attended his funeral in spite of the weather. In particular the minister noticed a tall young man that he didn't know sitting quietly in a distant corner of the church. The minister spoke of Carl's garden as a lesson in life. In a voice made thick with unshed tears, he said, "Do your best and make your garden as beautiful as you can. We will never forget Carl and his garden."

The following spring another flyer went up, It read "Person needed to care for Carl's Garden." The flyer went unnoticed by the busy parishioners until one day when a knock was heard at the minister's office door. Opening the door, the minister saw a pair of scarred and tattooed hands holding the flyer. "I believe this is my job, if you'll have me, "the young man said. The minister recognized him as the same young man who had returned the stolen watch and wallet to Carl. He knew that Carl's kindness had turned this man's life around. As the minister handed him the keys to the garden shed, he said, "Yes, go take care of Carl's garden and honor him." The man went to work and, over the next several years, he tended the flowers and vegetables just as Carl had done. In that time, he went to college, got married, and became a prominent member of the community. But he never forgot his promise to Carl's memory and kept the garden as beautiful as he thought Carl would have kept it.

One day he approached the new minister and told him that he couldn't care for the garden any longer. He explained with a shy and happy smile, My wife just had a baby boy last night, and she's bringing him home on Saturday." "Well, congratulations!" said the minister, as he was handed the garden shed keys. "That's wonderful! What's the baby's name?" "Carl," he replied.

Author, Unknown

## Airplane Ride

Wears ago, I was enthralled as I listened to a pastor who for several years had faithfully served the church. His executive responsibilities had taken him all over this country. As he concluded his message, he told of one of the most frightening yet thought-provoking experiences of his life. He had been on a long flight from one place to another. The first warning of the approaching problems came when the sign on the airplane flashed on: Fasten your seat belts. Then, after a while, a calm voice said, "We shall not be serving the beverages at this time as we are expecting a little turbulence. Please be sure your seat belt is fastened."

As he looked around the aircraft, it became obvious that many of the passengers were becoming apprehensive. Later, the voice of the announcer said, "We are so sorry that we are unable to serve the meal at this time. The turbulence is still ahead of us." And then the storm broke. The ominous cracks of thunder could be heard even above the roar of the engines. Lightening lit up the darkening skies, and within moments that great plane was like a cork tossed around on a celestial ocean. One moment the airplane was lifted on terrific currents of air; the next, it dropped as if it were about to crash. The pastor confessed that he shared the discomfort and fear of those around him. He said, "As I looked around the plane, I could see that nearly all the passengers were upset and alarmed. Some were praying. The future seemed ominous and many were wondering if they would make it through the storm. Then, I suddenly saw a little girl. Apparently the storm meant nothing to her. She had tucked her feet beneath her as she sat on her seat: she was reading a book and everything within her small world was calm and orderly. Sometimes she closed her eyes, then she would read again; then she would straighten her legs, but worry and fear were not in her world. When the plane was being buffeted by the terrible storm when it lurched this way and that, as it rose and fell with frightening severity, when all the adults were scared half to death, that marvelous child was completely composed and unafraid." The minister could hardly believe his eyes.

It was not surprising therefore, that when the plane finally reached its destination and all the passengers were hurrying to disembark, our pastor lingered to speak to the girl whom he had watched for such a long time. Having commented about the storm and behavior of the plane, he asked why she had not been afraid. The sweet child replied, "Sir, my Dad is the pilot, and he is taking me home." There are many kinds of storms that buffet us. Physical, mental, financial, domestic, and many other storms can easily and quickly darken our skies and throw our plane into apparently uncontrollable movement. We have all known such times, and let us be honest and confess, it is much easier to be at rest when our feet are on the ground than when we are being tossed about a darkened sky. Let us remember: Our Father is the Pilot. He is in control and taking us home. Don't worry.

Author, Unknown Submitted by: Genese Carter



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