



## Who Missed Whom?

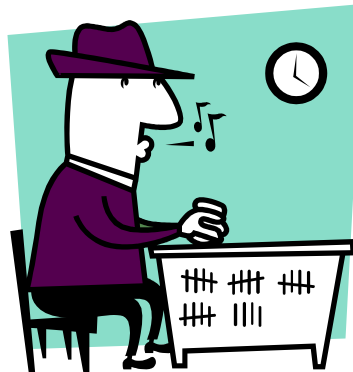
**H**ow do you feel when someone "stands you up" for an appointment? What will you say to him/her the next time you see him/her? That will be awkward, huh? Should you call him/her? If you're like me, your first thoughts are probably of worry for his/her well-being. She wouldn't have missed without a good reason!? Is he sick? Is she hurt? Has he had a crisis of some kind? So, in your love and concern, you call him/her and discover that he/she's just fine; just got busy with other things.

What do you say when the same person makes this a habit of "standing you up" every other time or so for the same regularly scheduled appointment? Well, maybe you call her again, out of love and concern or maybe a weird hope that she really is sick or hurt this time, only to discover once again that she's just fine; just got busy with some other things. Now I realize that in a business relationship this would be completely unacceptable? Who would waste their time on such a prospect? But what about for a friend? How many times would you want to repeat this scenario? How many times would you be willing to repeat this scenario? Maybe the question you'd feel is, "How many times should you repeat this scenario?"

It's always so awkward to call someone who's missed an ap-

pointment when you're pretty sure he's not been sick or had to work or was out of town. I mean, If those things were the case, wouldn't he have at least called to let you know that he's not going to make it? It's fairly unlikely he's just forgotten; we've had that same appointment time for years.

Yes, "awkward," is the right word. It is awkward. Awkward and uncomfortable. There's simply no easy way to address



it; especially when you have called him on more than one occasion to ask what caused him to miss the appointment and the reason he gives is... well... lame at best. And to top it, you're pretty sure that if you said anything beyond, "Well, I just wanted to let you know I missed you," he'd probably get his feelings hurt. So you don't call, do you? You don't want that kind of awkwardness. What would you say? No, you don't call. You make an excuse for him/her out of the possibility that he/she might be sick rather than be disappointed by the

truth again. So you don't call. You just let it be. Maybe, he'll be there next week.

But, out of the blue, he calls you and complains that you don't care because you didn't call to check on him! Now what do you say?

Hebrews 10:25 speaks to both sides of this exchange regarding our worship and Bible study appointments when it says, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." We all have obligations to one another as brothers and sisters in Christ; first of all to be physically assembling together but secondly to be spiritually building one another up. We should understand that one of the best places to give and receive that building up is in our appointed assemblies together and that he who misses them misses not only his opportunity to receive edification but he also neglects his own obligation to build others up.

Surely, we know that none of us should ever neglect our "one another" obligations whether it be due to feelings of awkwardness, apathy or anything else. We know that we are all called to encourage and build up one another. Surely, that assignment is made easier when we have the common time and

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### Renegade Christians?

A couple of weeks ago I was watching the coverage of Hurricane Katrina on the news and one of the experts, in essence, said, "Don't just jump in your car and go to help, we don't want renegade volunteers." The phrase gave me pause. "Renegade Volunteer?" What an unusual combination of words. The concept, however, was immediately understood. If you simply jump in your car and go to help, you will become part of the problem instead of the solution. Working individually, one could, in such a circumstance, become a victim to the looting and violence that was so prevalent. Working with a team, however, one can accomplish more because the resources of a team are so much greater.

The concept got me to thinking about how some people view being a Christian. In essence, they are "Renegade Christians." They believe that they can do their own thing without being associated or affiliated with the Lord's church. Such puts one into a dangerous

situation. Why? Several reasons.

First, a renegade Christian doesn't have the protection of the shepherds of the church. Satan loves to isolate Christians and attack with all of his forces of evil. On our own, he can devour us handily. However, when we stay with the church, he has a harder time getting to us.

*"Working with a team, however, one can accomplish more because the resources of a team are so much greater."*

Second, a renegade Christian can't do the works that the church, as a whole, can do. Some projects need more than one individual. They need a team of individuals. The Lord's wisdom is evident in that the pattern

for the church involves more than one person. When more than one is involved in an activity, there is more interest, encouragement, and accomplishment.

Finally, a renegade Christian won't have the encouragement that those who are part of the church have. To whom may the renegade turn in times of crisis? There is no one. But the faithful member has a wonderful Christian family upon whom to depend.

There are all kinds of benefits to being part of a team. The church is the Lord's team and as such we are expected to be members of that team. Are you a part of the Lord's team, or are you a renegade Christian?

Kevin Cauley

grounds of common assembly. But when one has neglected her obligation to us by careless absence is our obligation to her removed? Or does the way we have to meet our part of the obligation simply change a little? We are instructed to "warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone" (1 Thessalonians 5:14). More than once I have neglected my duty to make an awkward phone call. Rather than call and assess the need of my brother or sister, I have looked the other way. I confess this to my shame. It is my duty to encourage; my job to help. I must also warn. And I must not lose patience. As Paul reminds the Galatians, "Let us not become weary in doing good" (Galatians 6:9). Let us, none of us, neglect our love and concern for our brothers and sisters nor our obligations to fulfilling the word of Christ.

Wes Hanson



### Bible Studies for the week of September 18th, 2005

- AM Sermon..... "Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"
- Scripture Reading..... Ephesians 1:11-12
- PM Sermon..... Questions and Answers
- Scripture Reading..... NA
- Sunday Class ..... The Book of Matthew
- Wednesday Class..... Minor Prophets

### Kevin's Korner

Well, as of yesterday, I was back in the old saddle. I've seemingly come back to a mountain of work that needs to be done, but I suppose that is part and parcel to being away on a trip for a while.

The mission trip to Brazil went very well. I stayed with the Matheny family while there. Randal, his wife, Vicki, and his daughter Leila, were all very hospitable to me and I am very thankful for them. All in all I preached about eighteen different lessons and worked with four different congregations of the Lord's people during my time there. I came home with 206 pictures of my visit and I'm planning a slideshow for the congregation here in Berryville. I don't have a time scheduled for that yet but it will be soon and I will definitely let you know more about the trip at that time. I do want to thank the elders for allowing me to go on this

trip. I believe that it was just as beneficial for me as for others. I also want to thank everyone who helped while I was away. I want to thank the Rollers for chauffeuring Mary Lynn back and forth to Rogers for various different purposes. I also want to thank Debbie Smith for helping out with a little crisis while I was away. It was tremendously helpful to me to know that my family could depend upon these and many others while I was out of the country.

It was kind of a bitter-sweet return for me because yesterday morning we found our dog, Dallas, dead in the backyard. She had evidently got into some of the mouse poison that I had put out trying to deal with the infestation of mice that we have had this summer. John Gass was kind enough to allow us to take her out to his house and bury her in his backyard. Dallas was far from the perfect pet, but

she had nuzzled her way into being part of our family and we will miss her.

As I mentioned there is a lot of work ahead of me. The church in Green Forest is having a gospel meeting October 2nd through the 5th. The theme for the week is "The End Times." They have asked me to speak on Monday night on the subject, "The Tribulation and the Thousand Year Reign." In addition to this, I will be speaking on a lectureship this coming Spring in Austin, Texas. For this lecture I have to prepare a manuscript. This manuscript is due by October 1st. In addition to these things, I am going to be having a religious debate on the Internet on the subject of Marriage, Divorce, and Remarriage. This will be an ongoing effort over the next several months. So I have a lot of writing to do in between now and the end of the month.



"Thank you for supporting me, my family, and our work on my recent trip to Brazil and for everything you do for us."

### Records for the week of September 11th, 2005

Sunday Bible Class .....	60
Sunday AM Worship.....	76
Sunday PM Worship.....	64
Wednesday Night Study.....	50
Contribution .....	\$1536.46
Budget.....	\$1662.00



# Praises, Prayers, and Proclamations

## Announcements

- We are thankful to God for this new Lord's Day. It is the day we honor His Son and the Love that He has shown us through Him. Let us worship in spirit and in truth!
- Please remember the following in prayer: Cooper Doss, Von Farmer, Kala Grigg, Mary Gass, Bryan Guess, Hughetta Hand, Opal Hull, Bill Jones, Jimmie Tucker, Wayne Whitely, Billy Wylie.
- Please also remember all of those who are still recovering from Hurricane Katrina.
- There are several area gospel meetings coming up soon. Please check the bulletin board for the latest information on these opportunities to learn and study God's word.
- Commentaries on Philemon and Colossians are available in the foyer for \$28.00 each.
- Ladies Bible class will resume this coming Wednesday morning at 10:30 A.M. We will be studying the book of 1 Timothy.
- Our weekly Bible study at the nursing home will resume this coming Thursday afternoon.
- Be sure to check the outreach board for weekly assignments.
- Our pantry item is: paper plates.

### God's Salvation Plan

1. **Hear** the Gospel—Romans 10:17
2. **Believe** on the Lord & His Word—Mark 16:16; John 8:24
3. **Repent** of your sins—Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30
4. **Confess** Christ—Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9
5. **Be Baptized** for the remission of sins—Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27
6. Live a **faithful**, dedicated life—Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-10

## Welcome!

Visit our web site: <http://www.the-churchofchrist.com>

## Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class: .....	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship: .....	10:20 AM
Sunday Evening Worship: .....	6:00 PM
Ladies Bible Class: .....	10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class: .....	7:00 PM

## Serving Each Other

	Sept. 18th, 2005	Sept. 25th, 2005
<b>Sunday Morning</b>		
Songs:	Bill Fort	Ken Smith
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bob Moore	Leon Duncan
Scripture Reading:	Perry Foster	Brandon Foster
Lord's Table	Glenn Quigley	George Eddings
	Michael Morrell	John Gass
(assist)		Perry Foster
	Jerry Roller	Matthew Morrell
Closing Prayer	Bruce Foster	Dan Hand
<b>Sunday Evening</b>		
Songs:	Glenn Williams	Clay Bozarth
Preaching:	Kevin Cauley	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Bruce Foster	Dale Pinkley
Scripture Reading:	Dale Pinkley	Brent Moore
Lord's Table	Ray Duncan	Ken Smith
	Jerry Roller	Matthew Morrell
Closing Prayer	Michael Morrell	Glenn Quigley
<b>Wednesday</b>		
Songs:	Kevin Cauley	Bruce Foster
Opening Prayer:	John Gass	Leon Duncan
Invitation:	Leon Duncan	Dan Hand
Closing Prayer:	Ken Smith	Ervin Hand

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