

The Brighton Light

BRIGHTON ARP CHURCH

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JULY 2012: 'Closer to home, the harder it gets.' "For you are not sent to a people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language but to the house of Israel, not to many people of unfamiliar speech and of hard language, whose words you cannot understand. But, the house of Israel will not listen to you, because they will not listen to Me; for all the house of Israel are impudent and hard-hearted." (Ezekiel 3:5-7)

There are basically two things I want us to consider; first, why was God calling Ezekiel if He knew they would not listen? Secondly, what was the root problem with Israel? Ezekiel and much of Israel were already in captivity when he came of age to take up his priestly role and received his call to be a prophet of the most high God. God's call to Ezekiel shows His heart and desire for His people to repent, turn to the Lord for forgiveness and restoration. These hard-hearted people did not deserve God extending His mercy and grace, but that's how our Lord God is. And He still extends His mercy and grace to those who don't deserve it. If it had been up to us, we would have said; "They have made their bed, now let them lay in it."

God can never be accused of not giving people ample opportunity to repent and turn. What is so sad and amazing is that these very same ones blame God primarily for their situation and wonder why He is allowing these bad things to happen. This was Israel's frame of mind when Babylon conquered Israel and took away many captives. It is the same old story; "I am such and such, and belong to this church, my family has been a pillar in the community for decades, I haven't killed anyone and I mind my own business".

Now for part two; "What was the root problem in Israel"? It is both simple and somewhat complex. It did not happen in a short period of time. The kings began to listen to ungodly advisors which began to send the nation down a path away from God. The shepherds of Israel were false shepherds. Why? They completely left the Lord and His word out of the picture. There was no true worship God. These false shepherds led the people into idolatrous worship of all kinds of false gods.

Israel had so wandered away from God's word, His truth for all times, they got to the place they could not discern truth from error. They viewed what they were doing as true liberty and freedom. They could not see that Satan had blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts that they were on a path of destruction and captivity.

We seem to be going that that very same path of destruction because we, too, are leaving God out of the picture. However, regardless who will listen we are to hold up the word of truth, to be our Lord's witnesses and leave the results to God. Here what the Apostle Paul says; "Who then is Paul, and who is Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase." (1 Corinthians 3:5&6) We must realize that we too are called to serve in various capacities.

Dear Church, may we be faithful to our Lord's calling and trust that He will bring about His desired will and results. Pray for our nation, our leaders and the shepherds of His church. Pray that our church, each person will be renewed and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Yours In Christ, Meredith

SERMON SCRIPTURE SELECTIONS FOR THE MONTH:

July 1	Ezekiel 2:3-7 "Proclaim the Good News Regardless"
July 8	Romans 6:1-14 "What Kind of Freedom Does Grace Bring?"
July 15	I Kings 19:1-18 "We All Have Our Jezebels"
July 22	Luke 10:25-27 "Our Christian Walk Must Reflect What We Say We Believe"
July 29	I Kings 3:1-15 "Walk Humbly Before The Lord And Finish The Race"



SICK AND SHUT INS:

Bennett, Mary Frances	Locke, Ann
Billings, Mel Sr	Locke, Mike
Boswell, Mike	Lupinsky, Logan
Boswell, Rick	Miller, Jason
Brown, Don	Miller, Jeff
Cavin, Henry	Moncla, Luke
Culver, Michael	Moore, Martha Lou
Curtis, Cooper	Moss, Charlie
Dungy, Louise	Motes, Cindy
Fletcher, John	Otis, Mike
Frazier, Betty	Patrick, Carolyn
Goulder, Helen	Rhodes, Geraldine
Griffin, Melanie	Sanders, Laura
Harpe, Karen Cavin	Sigmon, Jaime
Hill, Dana	Starnes, Cecil
Hodges, Doris	Walter, Joshlin
Huffman, Linda	Welch, Jack
Krull, Lucy	McCain, Lisa
Legler, Don	Pugh, Kaleb
Lewis, Adam	Tyler, Jean
Lineberger, Rachael	

FLOWERS FOR THE MONTH

Margaret Sherrill

July 15 Linda Clarke In
Memory of
Mr. Jim Clarke




WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

July 5	Mr. and Mrs. John R. Moore
July 11	Mr. and Mrs. Alton Woods
July 24	Mr. and Mrs. Larry Crum
July 28	Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Molder



NURSERY ATTENDANTS

July 1	Molly Huffman
July 8	Joanna Simonton
July 15	Ashley Goulder
July 22	Linda Boswell
July 29	Stephanie Moore

CHILDRENS SERMON - July

July 1	- VBS KIDS SING
July 8	- Amanda Heath
July 15	- Kaitlyn Moore
July 22	- Kevin Heath
July 29	-

~July~

Thank you God for the Country we live in, for our military who serve to keep us free. Consider the price & no matter how large the amount you decide, It's still a small fee.

JULY BIRTHDAYS

1	Julia Moore Martha Lou Wylie	9	Joe Griffin Mike Paladino	19	Alton Woods Taylor Smith	26	Linda Boswell
2	Jimi Kaye Yarbrow	10	Owen Boswell	21	Don Legler Rebecca Rowell	27	Jan Allen Pannell
3	Kaleb Pugh	13	Barbara Guthrie Shelia Brubaker	22	Paige Dickey Sean Curtis	28	Mary Frances Smith Paul Shannon Boswell
5	Amy Starnes Brad Templeton	15	Jean Tyler Stephen Boswell	23	Amber Smith	30	Jennifer Leek
6	June Trotter	17	Jeff Huffman Makayla Boswell	25	Brian Crum Denise Moore		
7	Ann Blackmon	18	Angelica Wells Verlie Wells, III		Jay Rettig Joy Hill Marcie Goulder		
8	Christopher Miller						

PLEASE NOTE: If you have any ideas or suggestions for the church website, please contact Chris Gravley, webmaster, at 901-674-3851 or e-mail at chris_gravley@bellsouth.net.

THE DEACON OF THE MONTH is Keith Trotter. If you have any requests for the deacons, please contact Keith at 901-476-9980.

INFORMATION NEEDED! We need information for the Brighton Light. We would like to make the church newsletter more interesting and informative. If you have any news about you or your family or any suggestions or ideas, please contact the church secretary.

CONGRATULATIONS to Anna Hugues for making the Dean's List at University of Memphis.

CONGRATULATIONS to Mary Grace Simonton for coming in 1st at the Triathlon held at the Covington Parks & Rec! Mary Grace has also won several swimming competitions throughout the summer months. Way to go!

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL was a huge success again this year! Heartfelt Thank You to everyone that helped in any way with VBS. The seeds of God's promises have been planted in the hearts of the children by our faithful leaders. God's Blessings on all of you! Thank you for the beautiful gift.

PLEASE NOTE: Mission Trip is July 2-6 to French Camp. Keep those attending this in your prayers as they will be experiencing a Major Heat Wave.

MVP CAMP NEWS: If you think you would like to sponsor a camper to aid in the cost to send him/her to camp that would be greatly appreciated. Just make checks out to Brighton ARP Church and designate it to MVP CAMP. The cost of each camper is \$250.00 non-member and \$125.00 member. Any amount of sponsorship is accepted. Camp is July 16th - 21st.

Campers are: Lilly & Haley Alsbrook, Robert & Andrew Cavin, Kirsten & Emily Kirk, Michael & Christopher Miller, Mary Grace Simonton, Austin Starnes. Please keep these campers in your prayers.

Thanks for supporting the Youth of our Church.

PLEASE NOTE: Don Legler's new address: 1833 Tucson Dr., Lewisville, TX 75077

PLEASE NOTE: We would like to put an additional page in the Brighton Light to give an update on the "**SICK AND SHUT IN LIST**". If you have added a family member or friend to the list please give me an update on them. Please write the information on paper so that I can have accurate information. You can either give to me, Meredith, a Deacon or an Elder or you can drop off in the office.