

# Prayer Updates

## HOSPITALIZATIONS & SURGERIES THIS PAST WEEK

Carl Gulbransen – reconstructive neck surgery

Doreen Bartels – hip surgery

Earlene Baker – back surgery

Faith Eurie-Turner – RCU (restorative care)

Pete Schipper – surgery

Rosie McKinney – knee replacement 6/26

## RECENT HOSPITALIZATIONS /SURGERIES

Alan Dooka, Brian Vonmelchert, Carol Plaskett, Roberly Bedayan, Ron Berry

## HOSPICE CARE

Jane Evers, home hospice care

## HOME WITH THE LORD

Heartfelt prayer is extended to Kathleen Lineberry and family in the loss of her precious mother, Nancy Kronander. Kathleen reminisces that her mother lived her life fully for her family and her Lord until the moment she went to be with Him. Nancy's memorial service is Sunday, June 25, at 2:30pm in Monschke Hall with a dessert reception following.

Lindsey Mauldin was at her father's side when he went home to be with the Lord after a lengthy illness with cancer. Lindsey shares, "It is hard to lose a parent at any age" and requests prayer for her mother especially.

## We want to provide pastoral support...

Please call 465-3395 when someone is hospitalized, scheduled for surgery, becomes a shut-in, or in special need. Prayer support is available through our pastors and numerous prayer groups – call 689-9400. Please pick up a Prayer Update at the Information Desk or Welcome Center.

ENJOYING



## "Safeguarding Your Joy"

Message by René Schlaepfer, June 24 & 25, 2006

Philippians 3:1-21

*"Finally my brothers, rejoice in the Lord! It is no trouble for me to write the same thing to you again, and it is a safeguard for you." v. 1*

### Three Safeguards for Keeping Your Joy

#### Safeguard #1: Resist \_\_\_\_\_

Definition of legalism: \_\_\_\_\_

*"Watch out for those dogs, those men who do evil, those mutilators of the flesh. For it is we who are the circumcision, we who worship by the Spirit of God, who glory in Christ Jesus, and who put no confidence in the flesh." vv. 2-3*

Paul's Background: vv. 4-6

5 Examples of legalism: Trusting in ...

- \_\_\_\_\_ "...circumcised on the eighth day..."
- \_\_\_\_\_ "...of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin..."
- \_\_\_\_\_ "...a Hebrew of Hebrews..."
- \_\_\_\_\_ "...in regard to the law, a Pharisee..."
- \_\_\_\_\_ "...as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless."

*"For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit." Romans 14:17*

*"But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ..." vv. 7-8*

#### Safeguard #2: Refuse \_\_\_\_\_

*"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus." vv. 12-14*

#### Safeguard #3: Reject \_\_\_\_\_

*"...many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven." vv. 18-20*

# Daily Meditations

Brief daily devotions based on today's message

*Memory Verse: "But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord."*  
Philippians 2:7, 8a

## Monday: Overview

Read Philippians 3:1–11.

What seems to be Paul's overall point in these verses? According to these verses, why should a Christian rejoice? What error can mislead a Christian so that he or she loses joy?

*Ask the Lord today to help you focus on knowing Christ in a real, intimate way — and not to allow legalism or materialism or self-centered humanism to steal your pure and simple joy in Christ!*

## Tuesday

Read Philippians 3:1–6.

Paul uses extremely strong language here! Why is he so forceful? Do you think there is a place for strong words and serious warnings today? Can you think of any particular instances where such an approach is needed?

What particularly is Paul warning the Philippians about? Can you think of any groups in the world today who represent a "Christ-plus" message? How should we respond to a) the teaching; and b) the people caught up in it?

*Today ask the Lord to help keep our church on track and avoid a legalistic version of the Christian gospel.*

## Wednesday

Reread Philippians 3:1–6. Are there things you place your confidence in that are wrong? What kinds of accomplishments do Christians typically view as "earning" us favor in God's eyes?

Let's talk about more subtle forms of "works": Paul was super-involved in the Pharisee's religious system, which was theologically wrong. Do you think it's possible for Christians to get over-involved in even a theologically correct system to the point where we're so busy with church works that time with God gets squeezed out? How so?

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement and why: "When Satan ensnares Christians in a subtle form of works by getting them extra busy for God, he has them just where he wants them."

## Wednesday (continued)

*Today ask the Lord to help you focus not on additions to the gospel, but on the pure, simple gospel message itself: That Christ loves you so much He sacrificed Himself for you! Ask God to allow you experience the joy that comes from believing this wonderful message!*

## Thursday

Read Philippians 3:7–8.

Is there anything you once considered profit in your life that you now consider loss? What happened that led to that reevaluation?

Is there anything you value highly now that you suspect you'll value less as life goes on? What do you think you'll value more? What is most difficult for you when it comes to valuing what the Bible says to value?

*Pray that God will help you focus on Jesus and remind you to take time throughout the day to simply be with Him!*

## Friday

Read Philippians 3:7–11.

What does Paul value more than anything in this life? What is some of the "rubbish" that clutters your life?

What are your specific goals for knowing Christ better? What steps will you take to move you closer towards that goal? How do you think that will impact your faith and walk with God?

*Ask God today to help you value what Paul valued: Simply knowing Christ, including both His power and His pain!*

## Saturday: Review

Take the time today to go over any devotions you may have missed and to complete your memorization of the verses at the top of the first page. What points or verses have really hit home for you this week?

*Thank you so much for your continued prayer — keep praising God for the work He is doing!*

*continued...*