

Prayer Updates

HOME WITH THE LORD

Edith Michaelian's memorial will be Sunday, December 2 at 2pm, here at TLC, with a reception following. Edith and her husband, John, were both very precious people whose love for the Lord was evidenced in their lives and ministry to our church family (John had served as pastor to our seniors in years past).

HOSPITALIZED & SURGERIES this past week...

Alan "Woody" Wood – RCU

Beverly Bivins – RCU

Diane Bresnahan–Stapes – cancer surgery

Elva Jacobsen – massive stroke, going home to hospice care

JD Jacobsen – congestive heart failure, going home to hospice care

Gerry Zamzow – RCU

Richard Finlayson – RCU

Robert Stapleton – ICU, on a ventilator

Susan Watts – RCU

Tristan Beverly (parents Nathan & Catherine) – born 8/15 at Dominican NICU

Recent hospitalizations / surgeries: Adrienne Bresnahan Gomes, Kimberly Bonds, Mike Taylor, Paul Barton, Sheila Snavelly, Tamara Routley

Hospice Care: Connie Upton, JD & Elva Jacobsen

JOY & BLESSINGS

Mike and Tiffany Wiggins welcome into their hearts **Trinity Marybeth Wiggins**, born November 26.

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. **Subscribe to the Prayer Update online at www.tlc.org/profiles.**

A SEASON OF



Christmas Like a Child

December 1 & 2, 2007 • René Schlaepfer

The true spirit of Christmas...

- Zacharias in Luke 1:12,67
- The Shepherds in Luke 2:9,20
- Anna in Luke 2:36ff
- Mary in Luke 1:29,46ff
- Simeon in Luke 2:28ff
- The Magi in Matt. 2:10,11

... a spirit of _____

How can I recover a sense of WONDER?

Jesus said, "Let the **little children** come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God **like a little child** will never enter it." *Mark 10:14,15*

1. _____ like a child

"At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, 'I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and **revealed them to little children.**'" *Luke 10:21*

2. _____ like a child

"From the lips of **children and infants** you have ordained praise." *Psalms 8:2*

3. _____ like a child

"He called a **little child** and had him stand among them. And he said: 'I tell you the truth, unless you change and **become like little children**, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever **humbles himself like this child** is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.'" *Matthew 18:2-4*

"People were also bringing **babies** to Jesus to have him touch them. When the disciples saw this, they rebuked them. But Jesus... said, 'Let the **little children** come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to **such as these.**'" *Luke 18:15,16*

"You see, at just the right time, when we were still **powerless**, Christ died for the ungodly." *Romans 5:6*

4. _____ like a child

Jesus said, "... this people's heart has become **calloused**; they hardly hear with their ears, and they have closed their eyes. Otherwise they might see with their eyes, **hear with their ears**, understand with their hearts and turn, and I would heal them." *Matthew 13:15*

Four times in this one chapter, Matthew 13, Jesus says, let him who has ears, hear!

Jesus: "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. **If anyone hears my voice and opens the door**, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me." *Revelation 3:20*

Daily Meditations

Monday

Please read Psalm 40. Write down the reasons for wonder you see in this passage.

How do these verses encourage you today?

Write down one thing you want to remember as you go into the Christmas season.

As you pray today go back over the reasons for wonder in this passage and thank God for each one. Ask God to keep you open to new lessons this Christmas season.

Tuesday

Please read Mark 10:13-16 & Luke 10:21. Think back to your childhood holidays. What gave you the greatest sense of wonder? Think back to last Christmas. What was the most wondrous part of the holiday?

Why do you think Jesus used children as an example?

What do you think God wants you to see this Christmas season?

Thank God today that it's never too late to have child-like wonder and faith. Ask God to give you His eyes to see life this holiday season. Talk to God about the areas of life where you usually feel cynical. Ask God to give you a soft heart and a willingness to change.

Wednesday

Please read Psalm 8:2 & Matthew 21:15-17. Write down three words that describe your prayer life:

What characterizes a child's prayer life?

How do you think those child-like characteristics impact your prayer life?

continued 

Wednesday (continued)

As you go into prayer today talk to God about your prayer life. Talk to Him about what you'd like your prayer life to be. Ask Him to use the wonder-filled holiday season as a catalyst for a more child-like prayer life.

Thursday

Please read Psalm 131:1-2, Matthew 18:2-4 & Romans 5:6. In what ways do you struggle with trusting God?

What do these verses say about humility and child-like trust?

How do you think wonder and trust are connected?

Thank God today for the security of His character and love. Thank Him for His patience with you. Talk to God about the areas of your life where you struggle with trusting Him. Ask Him to use the wonder of the Christmas season to teach you anew about child-like trust.

Friday

Please read Matthew 13:10-17 & Revelation 3:20. In what way do you think children are good listeners?

What "sounds" tend to drown out God's voice for you?

How could listening to God impact your sense of wonder this Christmas season?

As you pray today just sit quietly before God and ask Him to share His heart with you. Spend the rest of the time listening to Him.

Saturday

Please be sure you've finished this week's devotions. Spend time in prayer today thanking God for what He has done for you and the many wonders you have seen this week. Ask God to soften your heart to His voice this Christmas season. Pray that you will have a wondrous week. Please pray also for the services this weekend — that they will encourage and strengthen all who bear.



Memory Verse

"Many, O LORD my God, are the wonders you have done. The things you planned for us no one can recount to you; were I to speak and tell of them, they would be too many to declare." *Psalm 40:5*