

From the Preacher's Pen... Many years ago, back when the internet and email were just beginning to be used by many people, a good friend sent me a list of five lessons. I'm sure that they have all been retold many times and probably with some changes. But this is what he sent:

Five Lessons for God's People

First Lesson: The Cleaning Lady

During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student and had breezed through the questions until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?"

Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired and in her 50's, but how would I know her name?

I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade. "Absolutely," said the professor. "In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention and care, even if all you do is smile and say "Hello."

I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.

Second Lesson: Pickup in the Rain

One night, at 11:30 p.m., an older African American woman was standing on the side of an Alabama highway trying to endure a lashing rain storm. Her car had broken down and she desperately needed a ride. Soaking wet, she decided to flag down the next car.

A young white man stopped to help her, generally unheard of in those conflict-filled 1960's. The man took her to safety, helped her get assistance and put her into a taxicab. She seemed to be in a big hurry, but wrote down his address and thanked him.

Seven days went by and a knock came on the man's door. To his surprise, a giant console color TV was delivered to his home. A special note was attached. It read: "Thank you so much for assisting me on the highway the other night. The rain drenched not only my clothes, but also my spirits. Then you came along. Because of you, I was able to make it to my dying husband's bedside just before he passed away. God bless you for helping me and unselfishly serving others."

Sincerely,

Mrs. Nat King Cole.

Third Lesson: Always Remember Those Who Serve.

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10-year-old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him. "How much is an ice cream sundae?" he asked.

"Fifty cents," replied the waitress. The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it.

"Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?" he inquired.

By now more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient. "Thirty-five cents," she brusquely replied.

The little boy again counted his coins. "I'll have the plain ice cream," he said.

The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left. When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies.

You see, he couldn't have the sundae, because he had to have enough left to leave her a tip.

Fourth Lesson: The Obstacle in Our Path.

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the King's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. After the peasant picked up his load of

continued on page 3

Opportunities to worship, study & serve:

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY 10 AM

WORSHIP 11 AM

EVENING WORSHIP 6 PM

WEDNESDAY 7 PM

THURSDAY LADIES' BIBLE CLASS 10 AM

Congregational Potluck 3rd Sunday
each month after morning worship
(except June, July & August)

*Welcome to all!
We are glad you are here!*

*Enter to Worship...
Leave to Serve*

Welcome to our visitors today! We hope & pray you'll be blessed by your time with us & will join us again soon!

Our Prayer List: Keep the following in prayer this week as you "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17): Matthew Odom, Heather Ries, Hunter Shirley, Rene Turner, Ruth West, Everrett Martin, Anna Mae Hardin, the Najera family, Bill Hall, Reta Wallace, Jim Holder, Kristi Martin, Wally Myers, Cindy Turpin, Millie Cunningham and...

Our Missionaries: Jack Farber and Aaron Knotts and families; Cesario Espinosa, Jr. (Philippines).

Previously Announced Family & Friends: Robin & Marc Estabrook (Julie Evan's sister & nephew), David Reffner (Flora Doster's grandson with MS), Art Stoneking & wife (friends of Carl Catozzi, cancer), Jeremiah Haller (Flora Doster's grandson), Annette (Cindy Turpin's sister), Cole Myers (grandson of friend of Myers), Sheila Simpson, Lillian Wilhite & Mirlene Smith (relatives of Lynn Shirley), Teresa Acosta, Rosemary Glasier (Crystal Mora-Landroth's mother), John Hoover's relatives with personal difficulties, Shelly Cooper (friend of Carl Catozzi), Lucas Espinoza (Brian Campbell's friend), Kaesha Raffterfer (Gene Pinkston's cousin, cancer), Chuck Keels (friend of Grubbs with cancer), Terri Fillipski (cancer, Julie Evans' cousin).

Special Requests: WBS & WEI Bible study students; Kevin & Nancy Chambers & World Christian Broadcasting; Judy Hagner, son Preston, daughter Angela & son James. Brandi Schroeder (Flora Doster's granddaughter with MS); Dallas Purcella's mother; Paulina's father (Arnold); Julie's father; Laurel's father.



OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL: Nate Panka (Cleo Wise's grandson); Javier Najera; Fernando Najera, Frank Torres (Javier's brother & cousin); Eric Shirley; Trevor Farrow (Allen's son); Scott Hoover (John's son); Ariel Gomez; Paul Sipes & April Belovedstone (Sue Wolfe's son & daughter); Ismael Lopez; Robinson Goldman (Cindy Turpin's son-in-law); Nathan Bagley.

New: Jason: Carl Catozzi's son in need of prayers; Michael Lightheart: son-in-law of Flora Doster, health problems; Jimmy Handtegen: friend of David Davis following a stroke; Derwin Jackson & family: with his job; Sean & Vickie: Carl Catozzi's friends with struggles in their lives; Terri Hoover: John's daughter-in-law with serious health issues; Monica Lopez: George Mora's aunt with breast cancer; Jacob Shirley: struggles; Ray Stephenson family: youngest son's cancer has spread; John Mark: in Afghanistan in danger for his faith; Jimmy Davis: friend of Mike Evans with melanoma; Adele Fink: recovering from colon cancer; George Ponter: Brian Campbell's cousin with multiple struggles; Amy Vestal: lupus and intestinal problems; Anna Price: via Kimberlee Myers; Chuck Hedrick family: with multiple health problems; Kathy Gonzalez: grandmother of Heavyen & Tatum with cancer; LaVerne Jackson's mother; Sandra Watson, Sue Shepperd & Elzie Shirley: Lynn's family with illnesses; Ray Stephenson;

Delbert White's Granddaughter Jessica; Tom Hoover: (John's brother); Jerry Odom; Barbara Harrison.

Steve McDonald: Jean Grubbs granddaughter's husband, tests.

Donald Helton: on dialysis until he has a kidney transplant.

Kirrin Kerby: (Jean Grubbs grandson).

Bob Harrod: with cancer

Carolyn Fisher: multiple health issues (via Cleo Wise).

Dena Lara: Myers' niece with complications of Valley Fever.

Larry West: is home.

Owen Doster: home and recovering from heart surgery.

Ken Price: friend of the Halls with kidney disease.

Cheryl Mince: recovering from knee replacement surgery.

Scott Untersee: recovering from surgery.

Jeanne Martin's friend Lionel Gibeau: pneumonia and heart problems.

Rick Richarson: Cheryl Campbell's brother with heart problems.

Carl Catozzi family: especially his unborn great-grandson.

Stephen: Everrett Martin's friend with internal bleeding.

Lily Reid: recovering from a broken arm.

Amy Grubbs: recovering from back surgery.

James Lilly: church member in Show Low, his brain cancer has returned after 3 years remission.

Lonnie Akins: recovering from surgery for his brain cancer and will have further treatments.

Jerry & Billie Odom: will be travelling the next three Sundays.

Also Our New Christians, those travelling and especially those with spiritual struggles.

Directory Update

George & Chantelle Mora family

1356 NM 236

Portales, NM 88130

Upcoming Events...

Men's Business Meeting: August 12 after evening worship.

Monthly Singing: August 26 at 2:30 in Eloy

5th Wednesday Prayer & Song Meeting: August 29.

Potluck: October 21 — Group #2 [Toni Pierce's group] set-up, serve & clean-up

vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the King indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway.

The peasant learned what many of us never understand! Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

Fifth Lesson: Giving When it Counts

Many years ago, when I worked as a volunteer at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had somehow survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness.

The doctor explained the situation to her little brother, and asked the little boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes I'll do it if it will save her."

As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheeks. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?"

Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor; he thought he was going to have to give his sister all of his blood in order to save her.

Like the stories Jesus told, these are simple little lessons that have some great spiritual lessons for us. In fact, these each have parallels in scripture... if only we will listen and pay attention.

So, how do you do with paying attention to others that you might win their souls? Do you truly reflect the character of Jesus rather than that of the society that you live in? Do you take time to honor those who serve? Are you a complainer or a doer in the Lord's Kingdom?

And finally, since your Savior gave His all for you... what do you actually offer to give to Him?

Yes, these are important lessons and each one may show far more about who we really are than anything that we might say. As a Christian, a child of the King... who are you really?

— Lester P. Bagley



Praise the Lord

Allen Comstock
asked for prayers last Lord's Day.
He is looking for a new job and wants to better live like His Lord.

LaVerne Jackson
asked for prayers Wednesday as she and her family struggle with challenges.

Monday with the Master
Back to School Edition!
Ages 10 through college meet tomorrow at 6 pm for dinner & Bible study in the Fellowship Hall.
See Lou Bagley THIS MORNING if you don't already know what to bring!

Last Week: 9+ Pew-Packers



Be "in the picture" every week!

✓ *Checkup* ✓
How are we doing?

Attendance Last Week:
 Sunday Morning Bible Class = 60
 Sunday Morning Worship = 100
 Sunday Evening Worship = 44
 Wednesday Evening = 55

Giving
 2018 Weekly Budget = \$3,015.00
 Contribution Last Week = \$3,609.00

Church of Christ
805 East Racine Place
Casa Grande, AZ 85122

Postage

TO:

Privileged to Serve

Sunday Morning August 5

Adult Bible Class: • *Acts of the Apostles* Lester Bagley
Announcements: Bill Hall
Song Leader: Tom Haney
Prayer: Greg Huffman
Serve Communion: Paul Ries, John Hoover, Curt Odom,
Frank Campbell, Riley Harrison
Sermon: • *Mark 9* Lester Bagley
Closing Prayer: Mike Evans
Count Contribution: Curt Odom & Max Compton

Sunday Evening August 5

Song Leader: Albert Bailey
Prayer: Jim Holder
Sermon: • *Parables of Jesus - 10* Lester Bagley
Serve Communion: Curt Odom
Closing Prayer: John Hoover

Wednesday Evening August 8

Song Leader: Curt Odom
Prayer: Greg Huffman
Devo: Carl Catozzi
Closing Prayer: Mike Evans

Anniversaries



August 11: *Ray & K.C. Ochoa*
August 23: *Eugene & Cheryl Pinkston*
August 29: *Michael & Linda Roberts*
August 29: *Pete & Cleo Wise*
August 31: *Jim & Janet Mong*
September 4: *Richard & Jenny Reid*

Birthdays



August 8: *Janet Mong*
August 12: *Clara Hill - Brooklyn Myers*
August 14: *John Hoover - Billie Odom*
August 15: *Shari McFerrin*
August 16: *Lou Bagley*
August 21: *Wynona Garrett*
August 25: *Jorge Mora*
August 26: *Barbara Harrison*