

### Shepherds

Johnny Davis ..... 307-4232  
Dan Fuller..... 478-3755  
Joe Holland ..... 626-2809  
Jerry Hopkins ..... 434-4188  
\*Phil Porter ..... 575-4782

*\*Chairman for the Month of June*

### Evangelists

Dan Jenkins ..... 744-4559  
David Sproule..... 301-2230  
Josh Blackmer ..... 319-1418

### Deacons

Mike Archer ..... 422-2995  
David Brown..... 972-7608  
Novel Brown ..... 848-6988  
Chuck Clark ..... 627-4132  
Victor Colage..... 798-6275  
Lance Collier..... 793-2718  
Jim Davis ..... 747-2984  
Mike Erickson..... 310-9916  
Tim Fry ..... 373-9121  
Jeff Goodale ..... 261-1188  
Rick Hall ..... 622-5131  
Bob Higbee..... 303-386-6405  
Gary Jenkins..... 889-3585  
Dick Kelley..... 968-1799  
Jeff Leslie..... 744-3444  
Paul Metzkes..... 736-9086  
Buzz Nelson..... 627-4890  
Jerry Pittman..... 793-2725  
Kevin Weeks..... 386-4108

### Church Office

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*Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ*

Vol. LV

June 5, 2016

No. 23

# VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

hosted by Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ



## JUNE 19-22

Each Night at 7:00 p.m.

Classes for all ages!  
(Babies, Children, Teens & Adults)

# KNIGHT'S QUEST

The Armor of God

Lesson 1: The Belt of Truth & The Sword of the Spirit

Lesson 2: The Shield of Faith

Lesson 3: The Helmet of Salvation & The Breastplate of Righteousness

Lesson 4: The Shoes of the Gospel of Peace



*See our graduates on page 6.*



By Dan Jenkins

## Rejoice in the Lord *Always*

Christianity was never designed to be a religion of sadness. The words joy and rejoice are found more than 400 times in the Bible. How could any relationship with God be anything other than the most marvelous experience one could have on this earth? When Paul described the fruit of the Spirit working in our lives, the second word he used was joy. Life with Him can never be a life of despair and gloom.

**There is joy associated for those who teach others.** There is great joy for those who teach. When Jesus told His disciples that the fields were ready to be reaped, He said that both those who sow and those who reap shall rejoice together (John 4:36). The psalmist said that those who sow shall without doubt come rejoicing (Psa. 126:5-6).

**There is joy for those who are taught about Jesus.** On the day of Pentecost, there were 3,000 who received the word with joy (Acts 2:41). When Philip preached in Samaria, "There was great joy in that city" (Acts 8:8). The Ethiopian "...went on his way rejoicing" (Acts 8:39). The man who found the treasure of the kingdom "...for joy over it goes and sells all he had and buys the field" (Matt. 13:44). Think about your own experience. Has there ever been any day surpassing the day your sins were forgiven?

**He did not see such as a time to weep, but as a time to *leap* for joy!**

**There is joy in the midst of trials as a Christian.** When adversity comes into our lives God tell us to "...count it all joy when you fall into various trials" (Jas. 1:3). How can this be? God gives the answer in the verses that follow. It is the trials in our lives which make us "...perfect and complete lacking in nothing." Notice also that God said count it *all* joy! We must not focus on the trials of adversity but on the results of them.

Jesus used some amazing words to describe our response when we are hated by others for His sake. "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy" (Luke 6:23). He does not see such times of adversity as a time to weep but as a time to rejoice. But, even more than just a time for joy—a time to *leap* for joy!

**There is immeasurable joy awaiting us at the end of our lives.** As Paul journeyed to Jerusalem for the final time he passed through many cities. In every one of them there were prophets who foretold the chains and tribulations which he would face when he arrived. Such did not deter his resolve for he longed to "...finish my race with joy" (Acts 20:24). It was this same joy which Jesus spoke of when His disciples were rejoicing that they had the power to cast out demons. He said, "Do not rejoice in this ... but rather rejoice because your names are written in heaven" (Luke 10:20).

"Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice."



By David Sproule

## "I Feel Closer to God Without the Church"

There are some Christians who have discovered something that some others are yet to figure out. Their enlightenment has led them to believe (and admit), "I feel closer to God when I am away from the church. I have found my own way to really focus on me and God, and I found that the church was

just dragging me down and keeping me from truly finding this inner peace." This is not an exact quote from anyone, but it is the sentiment that a number of folks have expressed, as they sought to explain the new direction that they chose for their lives.

What do they see that some others do not? There was a time when some of these Christians used to be at every Bible class and worship service of the church. They were active in the education program, in regularly encouraging the brethren and the young people, in participating in the activities of the church, etc. But now, the church is no longer at the center of their lives. They might come to worship on a Sunday morning, but to see them at any other time is rare. They have filled that part of their lives (once occupied with the church) with something else. So the question must be asked—can someone be "closer to God" when he has distanced himself from the church?

A Christian cannot be "closer to God without the

church" because the church is the **body of Christ** (Col. 1:18). One cannot distance himself from Christ's body and be closer to God!

A Christian cannot be "closer to God without the church" because the church is **bought by Christ's blood** (Acts 20:28). One cannot distance himself from Christ's blood and be closer to God!

A Christian cannot be "closer to God without the church" because the **church was/is Jesus' highest priority** (Col. 1:19-23). One cannot distance himself from Christ's #1 priority and be closer to God!

A Christian cannot be "closer to God without the church" because **the church draws nigh unto God's very throne in its worship assemblies** (Eph. 2:21-22). One cannot distance himself from the throne of God and be closer to God!

A Christian cannot be "closer to God without the church" because **Christ assembles with the church** (Heb. 2:12; Matt. 18:20). One cannot distance himself from Christ's presence and be closer to God!

Some brethren have convinced themselves that they don't need the church or to assemble with the church in order to be close to God. Such could not be further from the truth! When one does not abide where God calls for him to abide, he does not have God (2 John 9)! Please consider this.

**One cannot distance himself from Christ's body and be closer to God!**



By Josh Blackmer

## Testing Jesus, Not the Greatest Idea

Jesus had just silenced the Sadducees, a Jewish sect that did not believe in the resurrection or the oral traditions of the Pharisees. They had come to him with a question to test him (Matt. 22:23-33). Hearing this, the Pharisees, a Jewish sect in opposition to the Sadducees, got together to test Jesus again. This time one of them, a lawyer, stood up and asked the question, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" (Matt. 22:36). In my mind, the camera pans out at this moment, and there are two men standing in a dusty western town. A tumbleweed rustles by as the two men stare intently at one another. Jesus, a clean shaven Clint Eastwood and the Pharisaical lawyer, some ugly actor. Jesus answers the question, and the camera zooms in on the surprise of the ugly man's face as he holds his chest in disbelief. Jesus' answer found its mark in the heart of the Pharisee.

What was Jesus' answer on that fateful day, just days before He was to die for the sins of all mankind for all time? It was a combination of two passages. "You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD" (Lev. 19:18). Also, "Hear, O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and

with all your soul and with all your might" (Deut. 6:4-5). We would commonly call this the, "heart, soul, mind, strength and your neighbor as yourself" passage (Mark 12:29-31). It has become a song and a series of motivational social media posts. What most people gloss over as pithy wisdom Jesus says, "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets" (Matt. 22:40). It must be important if the entirety of the Old Testament hangs on it.

**True obedience demands that we love one another.**

John, the disciple whom the Lord loved, had this to say, "Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and whoever loves the Father loves the child born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and observe His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:1-3). Loving

God has at its heart obedience. True obedience demands that we love one another. "So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith" (Gal. 6:10). "See that no one repays another with evil for evil, but always seek after that which is good for one another and for all people" (1 Thess. 5:15). What was meant to be a test turns into a deeper application of an old passage—one that Jesus was present for when it came from the mind of God. When Jesus was being tested, I imagine that he smiled, just a little bit.

## Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

### Got fire insurance?

A preacher moved with his family into a new home and decided to go door-knocking in the neighborhood, to introduce himself and possibly make some positive contacts for future studies. At one door, a lady very abruptly flung the door open and blurted, "I'm not interested!" The preacher calmly replied, "But, ma'am...I haven't even introduced myself. I'm just a preacher for a local church of Christ, who just moved in down the street with my family, and I only wanted to meet my neighbors." Relieved, the woman calmly disclosed, "Oh, I was afraid you were another insurance salesman." They both had a good laugh, and then the preacher thoughtfully replied, "Well, you know. I am kind of in the insurance business. I'm selling fire insurance. Insurance from an eternal fire." Amused and with a smirk, she answered, "Now that's ingenious!"

As Christians, we are all in the fire insurance business. We are charged to "save" by "snatching them out of the fire" (Jude 23). There is an eternal fire, into which those who do not obey will "go away" (2 Thess. 1:8-9). Let us be the best fire insurance salesmen on the planet! – DS



### Greet by name

In the last chapter of the book of Romans, Paul sends greetings to the brethren. This was a common practice in Paul's letters, and it was common in personal messages of that day. But Romans 16 is unique in this way—Paul had never been to Rome, but he greets 27 brethren by name. Then, he mentions eight people by name who were with him while writing. Paul did not

just greet a group of brethren in general, but he called them by name. Do you know how meaningful that must have been, to hear your own name called?

The last sentence of the book of Third John reads, "Greet the friends by name" (3 John 14). By name! There is something about calling someone by their name! We see its significance when Jesus, the Good Shepherd, "calls his own sheep by name" (John 10:3).

Try calling people by name. Call brethren by name. Notice the name of people who serve you or call you on the phone. Call people by name. It will open hearts and impact lives. – DS



# Keep in Your Prayers



## Pray for These PBL Members

<b>Harold Armstrong</b>	suffering with chronic congestive heart failure
<b>Dee Catanzaro</b>	recovering from breast cancer surgery
<b>Brenda Collier</b>	recovering from blood clots in lungs
<b>Sarah Collier</b>	recovering at home from surgery
<b>Dave Holaday</b>	recovering from surgery
<b>Inell Ingram</b>	various health problems
<b>Ruth Milton</b>	Lourdes-Noreen McKeen Rehab (room 208)
<b>Harriet Morris</b>	at home and doing some better
<b>Connie Plouffe</b>	recovering from severe head injury
<b>Leigh Puckett</b>	blood clotting problems
<b>Isabella Reynolds</b>	fell and broke her arm
<b>Sherrick Thomas</b>	recovering at home from hospitalization

## Long-Term Health Issues

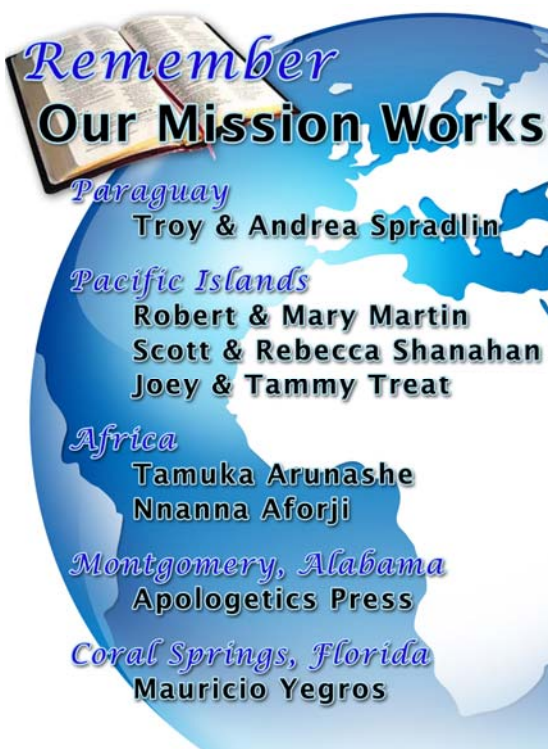
<b>Lillian Bankston</b>	dialysis treatments
<b>Annie Faison</b>	suffering with chronic pain
<b>Janet Hickerson</b>	chronic health problems
<b>Ruth Milton</b>	chronic health problems
<b>Silas Moses</b>	dialysis treatments
<b>Charles Norton</b>	dialysis treatments
<b>Norm Smedley</b>	breathing problems
<b>Patricia Ventress</b>	dialysis treatments

## Pray for Our Shut-Ins

Millie Ames	Daniel Johnson
Cora Lee Dennis	Don & Betty Matter
Helen Gardner	Deidra Miley
Margie Hardin	Godfrey Pratt
Loretta Holaday	Leigh Puckett
Shelton Howell	Ricky Smedley

## Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

<b>Peggy Faison</b>	Annie Faison's daughter, ICU at West Palm Hospital
<b>Corinne Gardner</b>	Dave Holaday's daughter, scheduled for surgery (6/8)
<b>Bobby Haines</b>	June Pack's son, recovering from heart catheterization
<b>Jan Hupman</b>	Scott Lewis' mother, knee replacement surgery (6/6)
<b>Sharon Landen</b>	Robyn Landen's mom, Royal Manor Rehab, brain aneurysm
<b>Jimmy Logan</b>	Betty Davis' cousin, liver cancer
<b>Mary Meess</b>	Micky Affron's sister, dealing with health problems
<b>Hillary Nicholson</b>	Jacqueline Creary's sister, severe back pain
<b>Chantel Peters</b>	Maria Hackshaw's cousin, critical condition, leukemia
<b>Vivian Rackstraw</b>	Tasha Ellis' grandmother, diagnosed with breast cancer
<b>Delores Sims</b>	Jimmie Banks' mother, undergoing chemo for cancer
<b>Mariam Wagenknecht</b>	Dick Kelley's sister, under Hospice Care





# Church Family Calendar of Events

## Sunday, June 5

- ♦ **Mt. Dora Coin Can Deadline.** Return cans to the office.
- ♦ **High School Graduates' Luncheon** after morning worship. All members are encouraged to attend and bring a potluck dish to share.
- ♦ **Renova/North Lake Nursing Home Visit** at 2:30 p.m.

## Monday, June 6

- ♦ **Monday Night Bible Study** at 7:00 p.m. in the Family Room.

## Tuesday, June 7

- ♦ **Tuesday Morning Bible Study** at 10:30 a.m. in the Family Room.

## Saturday, June 11

- ♦ **VBS Work Day** from 9:00 a.m. until noon. All members are encouraged to come and help prepare decorations.

## Sunday, June 12

- ♦ **Leadership Training Camp Lessons Presented** by the young men and women. There will be a separate Bible class for the ladies.

## Sunday, June 12 (cont.)

- ♦ **Youth & Family Singing** after evening worship in the Family Room. Every member is invited to stay and sing for about 35 minutes.

## Wednesday-Friday, June 15-17

- ♦ **VBS Decoration Setup** beginning immediately after Bible Study on Wednesday. Begins at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. All members are encouraged to help set up decorations. See Nate or Cindy Nelson for more details.

## Thursday, June 16

- ♦ **Family Group 4 Meeting** at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Mike & Jean Archer.

## Sunday-Wednesday, June 19-22

- ♦ **Vacation Bible School hosted by Palm Beach Lakes** each night at 7:00 p.m. This year's theme is *"Knight's Quest: The Armor of God"*.

## Sunday, June 26

- ♦ **Single Ladies' Luncheon** after morning worship at Duffy's on Northlake. See Joan Holloway for details.

## Palm Beach Lakes church of Christ Young Adults

## Monday, June 6

- ♦ **Young Adult Ladies' Prayer Night** at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Jennifer Higbee. Bring sides, desserts or a drinks. See Rachel Fuller for more details.

## Saturday, June 11

- ♦ **VBS Work Day** from 9:00 a.m. until noon. See Nate or Cindy Nelson for more details.

## Wednesday-Friday, June 15-17

- ♦ **VBS Decoration Setup** beginning immediately after Bible Study on Wednesday. Begins at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday and Friday. See Nate or Cindy Nelson for more details.

## Saturday, June 18

- ♦ **Young Adult Mini-Golf.** See Shea Brown or Ivan Villard for details.

## Saturday, July 9

- ♦ **Young Adult Devo** at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Paul & Lisa Metzkes.



## Palm Beach Lakes Youth

## Sunday, June 5

- ♦ **High School Graduates' Luncheon** after morning worship. All members are encouraged to attend and bring a potluck dish to share.

## Wednesday, June 8-11

- ♦ **Leadership Training Camp for Young Men & Women.** See Dan Jenkins, David Sproule or Josh Blackmer for details.

## Saturday, June 11

- ♦ **VBS Work Day** from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

## Sunday, June 12

- ♦ **Youth & Family Singing** after evening worship in the Family Room. Every member is invited to stay and sing for about 35 minutes.

## Sunday-Wednesday, June 19-22

- ♦ **Vacation Bible School hosted by Palm Beach Lakes** each night at 7:00 p.m. This year's theme is *"Knight's Quest: The Armor of God"*.



# Congratulations, Graduates!



## Kaylani Carmona

**High School:** Santaluces  
**Activities in School:** Band, Music Academy  
**Awards:** Four-Year Music Academy Award  
**Hobbies:** drawing, playing music on guitar and drums  
**Favorite PBL Memories:** mission trips, kayaking, amusement park while in Ohio  
**Future plans:** Attend Palm Beach State College



## Kaitlyn Donahue

**High School:** Wellington  
**Activities in School:** Weightlifting, Photography Club, Key Club, Equine Pre-Vet Academy  
**Awards:** A.I.C.E. Merit Diploma from Cambridge University, National Honor Society, National English & Chemistry Honor Societies  
**Hobbies:** photography, Netflix, eating  
**Favorite PBL Memories:** teaching Cradle Roll  
**Future plans:** Attend Florida State University, majoring in Actuary Science



## Freddie Gadson, Jr.

**High School:** Dwyer  
**Activities in School:** Vocational Work Program, Cooking Class, Olympic Program Sports  
**Awards:** Honor Roll, Olympic Awards  
**Hobbies:** music, gym, ice cream break, traveling, Autism walk, spending time with family  
**Favorite PBL Memories:** attending worship and Bible class, Nursing Home visit, serving at Ladies' Day  
**Future plans:** Vocational Work Program, Independent Living Skills Program



## Chris Thomas

**High School:** Morningside Academy  
**Activities in School:** basketball, Team Captain, Class Vice President  
**Awards:** Basketball Offensive Player, ECC Player, Outstanding Performer, Senior Leadership  
**Hobbies:** going to the gym, watching basketball, playing video games  
**Favorite PBL Memories:** Leadership Training Camp and CFBC  
**Future plans:** Attend University of Central Florida, majoring in Sports Medicine

## Recent College Graduates: *(if known)*

Patricia Hackshaw (Palm Beach Atlantic University)  
Lisa Holaday (Freed-Hardeman University, Dec. 2015)



## Whitney Williams

**High School:** GED Program  
**Activities in School:** chorus, orchestra, marching band, Drama Club  
**Awards:** 2nd chair first violin, Bass Drum section leader  
**Hobbies:** watching Dr. Phil, working as a nanny, volunteering at Peggy Adams Animal Rescue League  
**Favorite PBL Memories:** CFBC and mission trip to Mount Dora  
**Future plans:** become a high school English teacher

***"...always abounding in the work of the Lord..." (1 Cor. 15:58)***



**Andres & Angelica Fernandez** were baptized on Thursday morning, June 2.

### ***Thank You Notes***

Love to all my sisters and brothers for your prayers. I am feeling better, but still unstable in walking and have a little pain. Hattie Daniels

\*\*\*\*\*

Many thanks for all the calls, cards and visits from my brothers and sisters. Charles Fifield

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you for the prayers for my mom and me.  
Trina Wright



Sunday,  
May 29

**LOCAL VISITORS:** Ms. Lori Armstrong; Ms. Vivian Arrowsmith; Ms. Michelle Castonguay; Mr. Jean Charles; Miss Jamie Graniño; Ms. Rashana Green; Mrs. Maxine Griggs; Mr. Jason Halas; John Loftis; Cyniah & Janise Paul; Abigail Saintil; Mr. Terry West; and Mrs. Kathy Wood.

**OUT OF TOWN VISITORS:** Ms. Helen Bashaw, Canal Winchester, OH; Kirk, Mendy, Casey & Claire Crews, McLean, VA; Joe Dolan, New York, NY; Mrs. Karen Jones, Aylett, VA; Mae & Vivian Jones, Marietta, GA; Bethany Leslie, Orlando, FL; Mrs. Allison Simons, Greenwood, IN; Mr. & Mrs. Phil Smith, Gallatin, TN; Gerald Smith, Jacksonville, FL; and Ms. DeRita Summerlot, Orlando, FL.



Sunday (June 5<sup>th</sup>)

Lance Collier  
Haley Hall  
Shirley Hopkins  
Brandon Thomas

Monday (June 6<sup>th</sup>)

Sandy DeVall

Tuesday (June 7<sup>th</sup>)

David & Daisy Lord (Ann.)  
Maria Hackshaw

Wednesday (June 8<sup>th</sup>)

Maggie Dozier

Thursday (June 9<sup>th</sup>)

Stephen & Carolina Beliech (Ann.)  
Scott & Linda Studer (Ann.)  
Namdide Ikon

Friday (June 10<sup>th</sup>)

Bill & Gai Ingram (Ann.)  
Phyiona Patterson  
Amberdenise Puckett  
Josh Seames

Saturday (June 11<sup>th</sup>)

Betsy Donahue  
Richard Watson

### **Those to Serve**

*If you cannot serve, please call Mike Ellis at 775-3533.*

*If you are scheduled to serve on Sunday morning, please meet in the Grades 6-8 classroom at 9:50 a.m.*

*If you are scheduled to serve on Sunday evening, please meet at the front of the auditorium at 5:50 p.m.*

#### **Sunday Morning, June 5**

Lead Singing ..... Gary Friedly  
Opening Prayer ..... Chad Brown  
Scripture Reading ..... Tim Fry  
Presiding at Table ..... Freddie Gadson  
Serve at Table:  
Doug Carrick Tim Mahlbacher  
Marvin Dozier Jeremy Maloney  
Gorman Ericksen Adam Seal  
Richard Lerro Marty Williams  
Alternates:  
David Brown Ivan Villard, Jr.  
Closing Prayer ..... Morris McDaniel

#### **Sunday Evening, June 5**

Lead Singing ..... Bobbo Lupo  
Opening Prayer ..... Daniel Swayne  
Scripture Reading ..... Mike Ellis  
Presiding at Table Richard Watson  
Josh Blackmer  
Josiah Blackmer  
Austin Metzkes  
Closing Prayer ..... Harrison Carter  
**Wednesday Evening, June 8**  
Lead Singing ..... Grant Fuller  
Invitation ..... Nate Nelson  
Family Prayer ..... Johnny Davis

### **Our Record**

Attendance	May 29	Apr. Avg.
Sun. Bible Study	256	230
Sun. A.M. Worship	373	366
Sun. P.M. Worship	195	180
Wed. Bible Study	167	197
Contribution	\$14,660	\$16,451
2016 Weekly Budget: \$14,660		
Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: +20,624		

Ushers for week of **June 5** Head Usher: Novel Brown; Mike Erickson & Namdide Ikon





# PALM BEACH LAKES CHURCH OF CHRIST

4067 Leo Lane  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410  
www.pblcoc.org

*Speaking where the Bible speaks, silent where the Bible is silent.*



**Come & See!**

## Palm Beach Lakes Church of Christ Bulletin (USPS 097-200)

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Palm Beach Gardens, FL 33410-6401

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### Service Schedule

**Sunday:**  
Bible Classes..... 9:00 a.m.  
Worship ..... 10:00 a.m.  
Worship ..... 6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday:**  
Bible classes ..... 7:00 p.m.

Front Cover: **Harrison & Danielle Carter**



By Grant Fuller  
(Summer Intern)

## The Definition of Success

The big theme of the book of Joshua is a pretty simple one to understand, and it is this: faithfulness to God will bring success while unfaithfulness to God will bring failure. Joshua tells us about the relationship between faith and success through the story of the Israelites taking possession of the land which God had promised them, Canaan. During

their time of conquest, at certain times, the Israelites would disobey God, and at other times, with the guidance of Joshua, would obey God.

Whenever the Israelites disobeyed God, they would start having trouble. One of these instances occurred in chapter 7, just after the Battle of Jericho. Israel came up against the next big city after Jericho was taken down in such spectacular fashion, Ai. But, they ran into a big problem. Even though God had promised to deliver the people of Canaan into their hands, the men at Ai were able to defeat Israel. While Joshua and all of Israel were lamenting this loss, God told them why they lost. Israel had sinned (Josh. 7:11). They weren't able to take the city at first, because Israel had disobeyed God.

Eventually, it was found that an Israelite named Achan was the one who sinned, compromising the success of the whole of Israel! He had taken clothes and silver and gold

from the ruins of Jericho even though the Lord said that no one was to take anything for themselves. So, in accordance with God's law, Achan was put to death, and the things which he stole were burned alongside him (Josh. 7:16-26).

After Achan was punished for his disobedience, Israel came up against Ai once more, and this time they defeated it and destroyed it. Although Israel was eventually victorious over Ai, the sin of Achan will be remembered throughout all of history, and this lesson along with it: the unfaithfulness of one man can doom the success of a whole nation. That's an important thing for us to remember because as we are the church of Christ, we are the body of Christ. And as a singular body, we're all connected (1 Cor. 12:26). The success of one of us means the success of all of us. Meanwhile, the failure of one of us means the failure of all of us.

If we want to be truly successful in our lives we need to recognize that our success does not hinge on our wealth or our popularity or even the people we know. Our success, as Joshua teaches us by the example of Israel in the land of Canaan, depends solely on our faithfulness to God. Without Him we will ultimately fail, but with Him nothing can have victory over us. Indeed, it is an important challenge that Joshua issued when he said, "Choose this day whom you will serve..." (Josh. 24:15a).

**"Our success... depends solely on our faithfulness to God"**