

## David and King Saul-You and Covid



It is hard for us to imagine the spiritual lives of those in the Old Testament, but the life and psalms of David give us so much insight into his worship. The design of the Sabbath was not to assemble (that only began because of the scattering of the Jews as they went into captivity), but to take time every week to remember they were resting every week to spend time meditating on how God delivered them from the bondage in Egypt where they had no rest.

However, there were special feast days for Israel. Three times every year they came to the temple for those special days. That section in Psalms which contains the "Psalms of Ascent" gives us insight into the joy they celebrated as they ascended the mountains in Jerusalem to worship God. David describes his emotions. "I would go with the throng and lead them in procession to the house of God with glad shouts and songs of praise, a multitude keeping festival" (Psa. 42:4 ESV).

Then the wrath of Saul destroyed David's ability to keep the feasts. As a youth, he made those three journeys with his parents for the feast days. For the early years in Saul's palace, he enjoyed being part of the songs of praise with the multitudes. Angry Saul changed that. For over seven years Saul's army robbed David of this joy. Hear his words showing the joy

## Covid robbed us

 of meeting theLord at His table and feasting with Him
taken from him. "Come before the Lord with singing...Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise. Be thankful and bless His name" (Psa. 100:2-4).

How did the loss of this joy impact David? "As a deer pants for the water brooks, so pants my soul for You, O God. My soul thirst for God, for the living God. When shall I come and appear before God" (Psa. 42:2)? He longed for that day when he again might be able to go to the feasts. His heart rest-
ed in the hope that someday it would be restored to him. "Hope in God, for I shall yet praise Him for the help of His countenance" (42:5).

Think of the parallel in David's life and the lives of many Christians. Two years ago, they came every week to celebrate a festive time at the Lord's table. David said, "I used to go with the multitude; I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise" (Psa. 42:4 NKJV). Covid came. It kept us from meeting our Lord in the keeping of the Lord's supper.

Are you among those who have been driven from assembling at His table? Are you among those who for two years could not speak to one another in spiritual songs? The most vital question you face is do you miss worship like David did? Has complacency settled in and replaced the joy of coming with the multitude into His presence? Are you thirsting and panting to come to His table? Think about this.

## "They" or "We"?



By David Sproule

The words that individuals use reveal quite a bit about their heart and their outlook on life. How does a person talk about himself/herself? What words do they use? How does a person talk about their job, their family, their future plans? What words do they use? The choice of words-even little, seemingly insignificant words-can reveal quite a bit.
about the pronouns that people use? What about the pronouns that we use? When you talk about your home congregation, do you talk about the church as "they" or as "us"? Think about it for a minute. Replay in your mind things that you have said. Do you say things like, "Here's what THEY are doing down at the church"? Or, "Here's what WE are doing down at the church"? Do you talk about the church as "THEM" or as "US"?

So, when you hear someone else talk about the church (i.e., the congregation of which they are a member), what words do they use? To make it more personal, when you talk about your home congregation, what words do you use? Hopefully your terminology is positive and pleasant. Unfortunately, one's choice of words regarding their home church are often negative and unpleasant. It might be "the elders" did not do what they thought should be done, or "the worship service" was not what they thought it should be, or "the preacher" did not say what they thought he should say, or "so-and-so member" did not treat them the way they thought they should be treated. Listen to the words that are chosen to get a glimpse into how others (yea, even into how you) feel about the church.

But, remember what was stated earlier-"even little, seemingly insignificant words can reveal quite a bit"? What

## What would it

 take for you to change your vocabulary to "we" and "us"?The pronouns you use reveal whether you feel like YOU are a part of the church or not. The pronouns disclose if YOU identify as being IN or OUT of the church. The pronouns unveil whether YOU have stepped in, engaged and become an active element of the church. The pronouns say a lot.

If you are one who often uses the word "they" or "them" (instead of "we" or "us") to talk about your home congregation, can I ask you to take some time to consider why that is? What would it take for you to change your vocabulary to "we" and "us"? Are you waiting for something? If so, what is it and why are you waiting?

Regarding the relationship of those in the body of Christ, the Scripture states, "WE are members of one another" (Rom. 12:5; Eph. 4:25). It does not say, "They are members of one another." There is a unity, comradery and family that must bring each of us to say, "WE belong to each other!"

## It Was Only Going to Be Two Weeks



By Josh Blackmer

So Covid-19 hit the U.S. and things started closing down. The response was, "Two weeks to flatten the curve." I don't have to remind you how that went. What was supposed to be just two weeks turned out to be much longer. That's how things go sometimes. What we convinced ourselves would be "Just this once" can turn into a life-changing event. Eve may have thought, "Just his one fruit." I am sure David thought, "Just this one night" with Bathsheba. Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of $\sin ^{\prime \prime}$ (John 8:34). It is too easy to become a slave of $\sin$.

This speaks to the deceitfulness of sin. "Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death. Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren" (Jas. 1:13-16). We need to be careful about how we view $\sin$. If it is something we are willing to compromise on or try out just this once, then we might not understand the serious nature of $\sin$. That is part of the deceitfulness of sin. The good news is no matter where we are down that road we said we would never go down, we can turn back.

Turning back or repentance is a conscience commitment to renewing the desire of true service to the Lord. We need to confess our sins (1 John 1:9). That can be between you and God. If you want help, fervent prayer of the righteous, and accountability you may confess it to an individual or the congregation if it is a public sin (Jas. 5:16). After that change, we need to "show fruit in keeping with repentance" (Luke 3:8). That is the marked difference in our lives. We need to walk in the light (1 John 1:6-7). We also need to get our life back to be walking by the Spirit. "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please... Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires" (Gal. 5:16-17,24). We accomplish this by building up the fruits of the Spirit in our lives and conducting ourselves in accordance with the scriptures (Gal. 5:19-23).

This new year starts off with a clean slate. Get rid of the burden of guilt and renew your devotion to Christ and His church. It was only going to be two weeks. Don't let it be an eternity. Make the changes to live your life guided by the word of God. Find someone to help you and pray with you. Revive your prayer life. Come back to the assembly of the saints and the worship of the Most High. Come home.

## Articles Published in PBL Family News Emails Last Week

## Use your words to make a positive difference

The young lady collecting money at the first drive-thru window was looking pretty down. She was wearing a mask and the afternoon sun was intensely hot that day. She was also wearing two medical bracelets to notify potential first responders of her serious medical issues. On top of all that, the drive-thru was painfully slow that day, as the restaurant was horribly understaffed. Was the slow service this young lady's fault? Not in the least! But, guess who everyone had been taking their frustrations out on that day? This young lady, who was daring enough to get a job, when so many others are not working, in order to make some money to help her family.

Do you know what this young lady needed? Well, she needed what every other human being needs-a kind word of encouragement! Her countenance completely changed when one driver thanked her and took time to encourage her, while waiting for the line to move. Remember, "a good word (spoken in due season) makes [the heart] glad" (Prov. 12:25; 15:23). It only takes a few good words from you to change someone's day! - DS

## New and different

When you see advertisements for products, what catches attention is if there is something "NEW" about it. People like "new" things, "new" ideas, "new" technology. Even the Athenians in Paul's day "spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing" (Acts 17:21). So it is in religion, many folks are looking for something "new," and so many churches feel like they need to offer something "new," in order to distinguish them from "the other churches" and to appeal to the masses.

Consider for a moment: The Bible was completed almost 2,000 years ago. It is not going to change or to offer something "new." We must "not add" anything to it, in order to find or make something "new" or "different" (Rev. 22:18). If the truth of the glorious gospel and sound doctrine does not appeal to people, it is not our job to make it appealing. It alone is "compels" (2 Cor. 5:14; 4:7; 2 Tim. 4:1-4) and not us! Let us love, "seek" and teach "the old paths, where the good way is," and let us not be ashamed to "walk in it" (Jer. 6:16). - DS

## Keep in Your Prayers

## Pray for These PBL Members

| Mary Brown | recovering at home from surgery |
| :--- | :--- |
| Judy Carmack | recovering from cataract surgery |
| Jackie Creary | recovering from an auto accident, in pain |
| Johnny Davis, Jr. | undergoing chemo treatments for kidney cancer |
| Glen Dawson | stage 4 lymphoma, undergoing treatments |
| Beth Fry | having outpatient surgery on Jan. 3 |
| Katie Goodale | having brain surgery for her AVM on Jan. 4 in Phoenix <br> fractured pelvis, undergoing physical therapy |
| Shirley Hopkins | recovering from a hairline fracture of her pelvis |
| Carolyn Kemp | recovering at home from stent surgery |
| Owen Miley | diagnosed with rare cancer, awaiting treatment options |
| Peggy Simpkins | dealing with extreme exhaustion |
| Giselle Smith | in JFK North recovering from surgery on broken hip |
| Jermaine Smith | ICU at Jupiter Medical Center, childbirth complications |
| Jennifer Walker | gallbladder surgery on Jan. 3 |
| Julie Williams |  |

## Pray for These Relatives of PBL Members

Kay Estes
Carla Kimberland
Cineas Mauvais
Clara Medina
Laura Schubert
David Sproule, Sr.
Ann Teague

Chuck \& Cheryl Milton’s sister, procedure on Jan. 6
Cindy Summerlot's mother, angioplasty on Jan. 20
Juliette Mauvais' father, inflammation in both legs Carolina Alvarenga's sister, multiple health issues Nick Pietro's sister, treatments for breast cancer David Sproule's father, recovering shoulder surgery Sabrina Pietro's mother, recovering from mastectomy

Ongoing Health Issues

| Mike Archer | severe pain and weakness |
| :--- | :--- |
| Lillian Bankston | dialysis treatments |
| Judy Carmack | multiple health issues |
| Terri Hahn | leukemia |
| Inell Ingram | Courtyard Gardens (Jupiter) |
| John Loftis | back pain, weakness |
| Joel Ramirez | dialysis treatments |
| Sherri Richmond | multiple health issues |
| Henry Williams | dialysis treatments |

## Pray for Our Shut-Ins

| Millie Ames | Joe Holland |
| :--- | :--- |
| Josie Dawson | Daniel Johnson |
| Dianne Frye | Betty Matter |
| Margie Hardin | Connye Plouffe |
| Loretta Holaday | Ricky Smedley |



## Church Family Calendar of Events

## Sunday, January 2

- Every Member Present Sunday for Bible Class and Worship. New plans for the new year will be presented, and every member is urged to be in attendance. Let's start the new year together!


## Monday, January 3

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


## Tuesday, January 4

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


## Saturday, January 8

- Widows \& Widowers Luncheon from 11:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at the home of Kane \& Fran Campbell. Come and enjoy food, fun and fellowship. RSVP to Kane or Fran Campbell.


## Sunday, January 9

- House-to-House/Heart-to-Heart Labeling at 5:00 p.m. in the Family Room. Everyone is encouraged to come and help out.


## Monday, January 10

- Men's Meet at 7:00 p.m. at the church building. All PBL men in Grades 9 and up are invited. Bring your Bible, a chair, some meat to grill, a drink and your own plate/utensils. This is a great opportunity for men of all generations to fellowship.


## Friday, January 21

- Ladies \& Lattes at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Cara Blackmer. ALL PBL women in Grades 9 and up are invited to fellowship and grow together in God's word. Coffee and tea will be provided. Please bring desserts.


## Sunday, January 23

- Baby Shower for Hunter \& Kaitlin Hinton at 4:30 p.m. in the Family Room. They are registered at BuyBuyBaby and Babylist.com. It's a girl!
- Youth \& Family Singing after evening worship in the Family Room. Every member is invited to stay and sing for about 35 minutes.


## Sunday, January 30

- Mission Sunday. Every dollar given will be used for mission work.


Sunday, January 9

- Jr. High \& Sr. High Family Meeting \& Devo after morning worship in the Family Room. All families are encouraged to attend and bring a potluck dish to share.


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"So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17).


## Members Traveling this week <br> WIU BE BACK Soov!

## Birthdays \& Anniversaries Week

Sunday (January 2nd)
Gary \& Jacqui Jenkins (Ann.)
Michael Archer
Ellen Gager
Monday (January 3rd)
Jacqueline Creary
Jessie Gower-Winter
Natalie Villa
Tuesday (January 4th)
Joseph \& Anthioda Charles (Ann.)

Tuesday (January 4th) cont. Gabrielle Newby

Thursday (January 6th) Bobby Ingraham Joe Maloney

Friday (January 7th) Willie \& Giselle Smith (Ann.) Lucy Bond
Sandy Colage

Donald Seay placed membership on Sunday, December 19.

## Thank You for worshiping with us

Sunday, December 26

LOCAL VISITORS: Ms. Atinuke Akingbade; Ms. Ayanna Bab-cock-Sutherland; Mr. \& Mrs. Win \& Holly Benson; Ms. Vera Gibson; Mr. \& Mrs. Keith \& Kim Hutchison; Mr. \& Mrs. Je’von \& Jascity Hutchison; Mrs. Jean Marlene; Ms. Melissa Shaw; Mr. Willie Shaw; Mr. \& Mrs. Quinntel \& Trellini Smith; Ms. Kayla Smith; and Mr. Garfield Walks.

OUT-OF-TOWN VISITORS: Mr. \& Mrs. Russell \& Susan Beliech, Reeds Spring, MO; Mr. \& Mrs. Bert \& Anita Brown, Sneedville, TN; Mr. \& Mrs. Jake \& Misty Burris, Davison, MI; Mr. \& Mrs. Jacob \& Lauren Campbell, Spring Hill, TN; Mr. \& Mrs. Tyrone \& Denise Carter, Indian Harbour Beach, FL; Mr. Brad Collier, Patterson, GA; Mr. \& Mrs. Justin \& Sharah Collier, Chapel Hill, NC; Mrs. Debbie Cox, Grove City, OH; Mr. \& Mrs. Elijah \& Kristen Dye, Addison, TX; Mr. \& Mrs. Sam \& Katie Ford, Smithville, TN; Ms. Virginia Glenn, Morris Plains, NJ; Miss Stacy Hall, Dallas, TX; Miss Kelly Hall, Dallas, TX; Mr. \& Mrs. David \& Kenna Hardy, Nashville, TN; Miss Bethany Leslie, Winter Garden, FL; Mr. Greg McLeod, Tallahassee, FL; Mrs. Jacqueline Parker, Ringgold, GA; Mr. \& Mrs. Michael \& Beth Rosenblum, Huntsville, AL; Ms. Darlene Smith, Valdosta, GA; and Mr. \& Mrs. Travis \& Elizabeth Toye, Davison, MI.


Congratulations to Aaron \& Jennifer Walker upon the birth of their son, Asa Jermaine, on Thursday, December 9 weighing $9 \mathrm{lbs}, 5 \mathrm{oz}$.

## Those to Serve

If you are unable to serve, please contact the Service Coordinator for the week or Rick Hall at 827-4269. 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, January 2

| Singing.......................................... Kirk Crews Friedly |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Opening Prayer .................. |  |
| Scripture Reading....... Lawrence Williams |  |
| Singing |  |
| Lord's Supper .....................................TBD |  |
| Contribution |  |
| Singing |  |
| Sermon |  |
| Singing |  |
| Closing Prayer ........................ Ivan Villard |  |
| Serve at Table: |  |
| Mike Damron | James Green |
| Michael Ellis | Hunter Hinton |
| Gorman Ericksen | Luther Robinson |
| Michael Erickson | Jim Rogers |
| Max Fonrose | Marty Williams |

## Sunday Evening, January 2

Singing .............................. Dan McLeod
Opening Prayer..........................feff Leslie
Scripture Reading ...........Jerry Hopkins
Singing
Lord's Supper.....................John Hoelzer
Contribution
Singing
Sermon
Singing
Closing Prayer................Graysen Hayes
Serve at Table:
$\quad$ Troy Alberga $\quad$ Lance Collier

Service Coordinator:
Bob Higbee

Ushers for this week: Kane Campbell \& Joe Maloney Safety Team for this week: Jimmie Banks

## Wednesday Evening, January 5

Singing.................................Josh Blackmer
Invitation........................Ivan Villard
Family Prayer ...............

## Our Record

| Attendance | Dec. 26 |  | Nov. Avg |
| :---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
|  | Sun. Bible Study | 121 |  |
| Sun. AM Worship | 220 | 269 |  |
| Sun. PM Worship | 110 | 111 |  |
| Wed. Bible Study | 104 | 135 |  |
| Contribution | $\$ 15,106$ | $\$ 15,504$ |  |

2021 Weekly Budget: \$14,994
Y-T-D Contribution-to-Budget: \$63,880


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: Casey \& David Bound, Nicole Freseman

## What Must I Do to Be Saved?

## The Bible says...

1. Believe that Jesus is the Son of God
"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved" (Acts 16:31).
2. Repent of your sinful ways
"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out" (Acts 3:19).
3. Confess your faith in Jesus
"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus...you will be saved" (Rom. 10:9).
4. Be immersed in water
"He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (Mark 16:16).
5. Commit to a lifetime of faithful service "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Rev. 2:10).

## Upcoming Events

## January 30

Mission Sunday

## February 12

Sweetheart Banquet

## March 6-9

Gospel Meeting with Phil Sanders
Theme: "Hungering for Truth"

## April 21

Ladies' Day with Carol Dodd

## April 30

Power Up! A Recharge for Christian Men

## May 1

Bring-a-Friend Day with Neal Pollard

## May 22

Promotion Sunday

