



“A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance...”
Proverbs 15:13a

No Excuse Sunday

To make it possible for everyone to attend church this Sunday, we are going to have a special "No Excuse Sunday":

Cots will be placed in the foyer for those who say, "Sunday is my only day to sleep in."

There will be a special section with lounge chairs for those who feel that our pews are too hard.

Eye drops will be available for those with tired eyes from watching TV late Saturday night.

We will have steel helmets for those who say, "The roof would cave in if I ever came to church."

Blankets will be furnished for those who think the church is too cold, and fans for those who say it is too hot.

Scorecards will be available for those who wish to list the hypocrites present.

Relatives and friends will be in attendance for those who can't go to church and cook dinner, too.

We will distribute "Stamp Out Stewardship" buttons for those that feel the church is always asking for money.

One section will be devoted to trees and grass for those who like to seek God in nature.

Doctors and nurses will be in attendance for those who plan to be sick on Sunday.

The sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who never have seen the church without them.

We will provide hearing aids for those who can't hear the preacher and cotton wool for those who think he's too loud!

Lilies of the Valley Newsletter

Luke 12:27-28 "Consider the lilies how they grow"

A Ministry of Blackstone Valley Baptist Church



**“This is the day which the LORD
hath made; we will rejoice and be
glad in it.” Psalm 118:24**

June 2014

Making Natural Products



with **Chrissie Landry**
June 17th
7:00pm

Upcoming Gatherings:

July 15th - Fun in the SONShine
August - Revival

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds." Hebrews 12:1-3



Ladies Prayer Time.
Tuesday Mornings
at 10:00a.m.

Becoming a Burden Bearer Romans 15:1-2

The Bible instructs Christians to bear one another's burdens. Doing this effectively requires three things.

• **Awareness.** If you're not sensitive to the struggles of those around you, how can you help them? Every Sunday you sit in church, surrounded by people who hurt intensely. The Lord knows the depth of their suffering and desires to release them from bondage, but He often works through His children. Thankfully, we have His Spirit to sensitize us to needs in our midst.

• **Acceptance.** We are not to bear burdens on the basis of how we feel about the other person. Jesus doesn't discriminate about whom to love or help. If we want to be like Christ, we must be willing to share in the pain of others, no matter who they are. Does this describe you? Or do you limit your support to family and friends?

• **Availability.** Christians sometimes relegate the work of caring for others to their pastor, figuring, *That's his job, after all.* Yet he, too, has burdens. Your pastor wants to help everybody in all possible ways, but if he's the only one available to offer support for the congregation, both he and the church will crumble. A faith community thrives when people bear each other's burdens. Ask yourself if there's a way you can help carry the load.

Scripture tells us the whole law is fulfilled in one commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Gal. 5:14). Next to loving the Lord with all your heart, this is the second greatest command (Matt. 22:39). Therefore, when we share another person's heartache and burdens, we fulfill a great law of God.

Practical Ways to Bear Burdens 1 Thessalonians 5:14

There are hurting people everywhere, but at times we just don't know what to say or do to ease their pain. Here are six practical ways to bear someone else's burdens:

1) Be there. At times the best "method" of helping is simply to be present. During our darkest hours, we don't need someone who tries in vain to fix everything; we just need a friend.

2) Listen. Don't attempt to give answers or tell people what to do next. Injured souls frequently want only a listening ear so they can express what's on their mind.

3) Share. Never parade yourself as someone who seemingly has all the answers. Instead, allow your own pain and failures to help others.

4) Pray. There is power in speaking people's names before the Lord. When others hear someone talk to Jesus on their behalf, healing often starts to take place.

5) Give. Sometimes helping others involves more than a handshake or warm hug. Maybe they need something financial or material. One of the best measures of sincerity is how much we're willing to give to others.

6) Substitute. You may know an individual who bears the burden of caring for someone else. If you step in and take his or her place for a while, you are emulating your Savior—He, too, was a substitute.

Because we were unable to do it ourselves, Jesus bore all of our sin and sorrow, even unto death. As a result, we can live happily and eternally in communion with our Father. If Christ did that for us, how can we ever say, "I'm too busy to bear someone else's burden"?

WHO WERE THEY???



Hannah

Hannah's prayer shows us that all we have and receive is on loan from God. Hannah might have had many excuses for being a possessive mother. But when God answered her prayer, she followed through on her promise to dedicate Samuel to God's service.

She discovered that the greatest joy in having a child is to give that child fully and freely back to God. She entered motherhood prepared to do what all mothers must eventually do - let go of their children.

When children are born, they are completely dependent upon their parents for all their basic necessities. This causes some parents to forget that those same children will grow toward independence within the span of a few short years. Being sensitive to the different stages of that healthy process will greatly strengthen family relationships; resisting or denying that process will cause great pain. We must gradually let go of our children in order to allow them to become mature, independent adults.

Strengths and Accomplishments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mother of Samuel, Israel's greatest judge • Fervent in worship; effective in prayer • Willing to follow through on even a costly commitment
Weakness and mistakes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Struggled with her sense of self-worth because she was unable to have children
Lessons from their lives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God hears and answers prayers • Our children are gifts from God • God is concerned for the oppressed and afflicted
Key Verse	<p><i>"And she said, Oh my lord, as thy soul liveth, my lord, I am the woman that stood by thee here, praying unto the LORD. For this child I prayed; and the LORD hath given me my petition which I asked of him: Therefore also I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he liveth he shall be lent to the LORD. And he worshipped the LORD there." 1 Samuel 1:26-28</i></p>

Taken from the KJV Life Application Study Bible

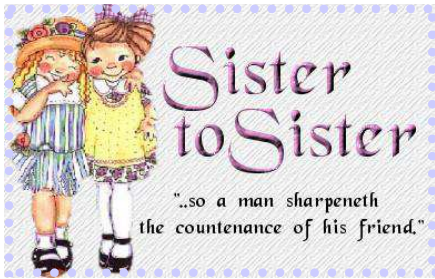
FINISH WELL

by Karen Peck & New River

There will come a day
 I know without a doubt
 Around the throne the saints will bow
 And lay down every crown
 How glorious that moment
 To see Him face to face
 To hear Him say "well done my child"
 You've finished your race
 But for now the sun's still rising
 There's work to still be done
 While we're waiting for the promise
 Of what is yet to come.

{Chorus}
 Finish well
 Every day that we are given
 Finish well
 For the glory of His name
 Finish strong
 Until the Savior finally calls us home
 Give it everything we have
 Finish well.

There's no truth in saying
 We've seen our better days
 These are the days to be courageous
 Bold and full of faith
 So wherever He may lead us
 Whatever it may cost
 Let the Church arise and lift
 The banner of the cross.
 {Chorus}



Great Information about Modesty and Dress

Taken from Mrs. Judy Lewis' Blog

Dear Ladies,

Recently I came across this article that is full of teaching you could use in your churches to help your women and teen girls. I have permission to reprint a small portion of the article, but I encourage you to go to his blog and read the full article <http://www.neednotfret.com/>

ONE MAN'S PLEA FOR CHRISTIAN WOMEN TO DRESS MODESTLY

Written by Kevin L. Howard

If you're a mom, don't underestimate your influence over your girls in the way they think about themselves and your boys in the way they think about women. The father's role is vital too. If fathers start instilling the virtues of modesty while their children are young, then these same fathers might not fret as much when their sons and daughters blossom into teens. If a man already has a teen daughter, he can hopefully still shape her outlook on her body. He must show her love, but remain firm that she isn't free to dress like a streetwalker. And he can have the same positive influence on his sons, teaching them to respect women and to cherish sex as a gift of marriage. Train your children now while they're young. Teach them not just to dress modestly but to think modestly. After all, modesty is a heart issue.

Tips on dressing modestly

Styles come and go, but class is always in fashion. Keep skirts at knee level, and don't wear tight shirts or jeans. Exposed belly buttons, backs, underwear, and mid riffs aren't appropriate in mixed company. Choose pants that don't have writing on the seat, or else you're asking men to stare at your butt.

Jeremy Clark gives some practical tips for women to test their apparel before they leave the house.

"When bending over in a loose-fitting or scoop-neck blouse, always place your hand over the neckline.

"When wearing a button-down blouse, stand sideways and look at the button-holes in a mirror. If they spread too far apart or gape too much, you'll expose your chest. Pin between the buttons if you need to.

"For all blouses, be conscious about your bra showing. Be especially careful with the armholes or straps of sleeveless blouses. Just the sight of your undergarments can cause a guy to stumble.

"When wearing a dress or skirt, always stand in the light and check if you need a slip. Even a lightweight black dress can reveal your silhouette (in other words, be see-through). Your best bet is to always wear a slip. And if you can't find a slip short enough for your skirt, chances are your skirt is too short!

"When wearing a skirt or dress, always be conscious of the way you're sitting. You may think I don't need to mention this obvious fact, but you'd be surprised how often girls fail to sit modestly.

"When wearing a skirt, be aware that changing positions will cause your skirt to bunch or pull. Smooth your skirt down when you sit down or stand up.

"When choosing a bra, remember that lace and seams will show through many tops. Choose a seamless or smooth bra whenever possible. (And remember, it's almost pointless to wear a bra if the material of your blouse is too thin. I don't have to tell you what happens when you get cold. Protect yourself with a thicker material.)

"The best advice I could give you is to stand in front of a mirror before you go out. Bend over, turn side to side, turn around, and check everything. Be aware of what different kinds of clothing can reveal.

Ladies lets not be a stumbling block to any man. Please be conscious of what you are wearing at all times. Remember your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. We are to be reflections of our Savior.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 - What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

Proverbs 31:30 - Favour [is] deceitful, and beauty [is] vain: [but] a woman [that] feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

1 Corinthians 10:31 - Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.