



Central Church of Christ

February 10, 2013

PLEASE CONTINUE TO PRAY:

DAVID LEATHERMAN is having eye surgery Monday, February 11th. *RANDY SCOTT'S* sister Julie Rathbone is asking for prayers for recovery. Services for *TREVA MURRELL'S* cousin Monte Hollabaugh were Friday, February 8th.



Also keep these people in your hearts and prayers:

SERVICE MEN & WOMEN, Gale Stephens, Jim Ober, David Finch, Clayton Williams, Gale Stephens, John Brookins, T.A. & Gene Hayhurst, Jay Weddel, David Tucker, Linda Hayhurst, Mabel Sadler, Jimmie Scott, David George, Frances Lemoine, Darla Young, Steve Dickey, Carl Dickey, Ray Jennings, Callis Love, Ed Workman, Billie Watson, Gigi Barlow, Trish Cooper, Donna Barlow, Peggy Nance (Tonya James' mother) and Lee Barlow.

13th-Ed Workman
 14th-Elizabeth Adams
 Lou Stephens
 Luis Betancourt
 15th-Steve Dickey
 16th-Brent Joy

**HEART TO HEART
 BANQUET**
*The evening at 5:00 pm
 Invite your family and
 friends!!!*

Records for 2.3.2013
 Bible Class: 67
 Worship: 107
 Contribution: \$3,460
 Budgeted Contribution: \$3,560

Morning Service
 Singing-Toby
 Song
 Song
 Song
REFLECTION & LORD'S SUPPER
WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION
 Song
 Song
Prayer
 Song
 -Bruce-
 Song
 Announcements
 Larry Stewart

LADIES DAY OUT!!!
 February 17th following Potluck
 Time to be announced
 Movie "Safe Haven"
 then out to EAT

MONTHLY REMINDERS: FEBRUARY
 Mission Contributions
 10th-Men's Business Meeting
 13th-Wednesday Morning Bible Study
 Wacky Wednesday @ 6:00 pm
 17th-Potluck Luncheon
 20th-Wednesday Morning Bible Study
 27th-Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Ted Stallard undoubtedly qualifies as the one of "the least." Turned off by school. Very sloppy in appearance. Expressionless. Unattractive. Even his teacher, Miss Thompson, enjoyed bearing down her red pen -- as she placed Xs beside his many wrong answers.

If only she had studied his records more carefully. They read:

1st grade: Ted shows promise with his work and attitude, but (has) poor home situation.

2nd grade: Ted could do better. Mother seriously ill. Receives little help from home.

3rd grade: Ted is good boy but too serious. He is a slow learner. His mother died this year.

4th grade: Ted is very slow, but well-behaved. His father shows no interest whatsoever.

Christmas arrived. The children piled elaborately wrapped gifts on their teacher's desk. Ted brought one too. It was wrapped in brown paper and held together with Scotch Tape. Miss Thompson opened each gift, as the children crowded around to watch. Out of Ted's package fell a gaudy rhinestone bracelet, with half of the stones missing, and a bottle of cheap perfume. The children began to snicker. But she silenced them by splashing some of the perfume on her wrist, and letting them smell it. She put the bracelet on too.

At day's end, after the other children had left, Ted came by the teacher's desk and said, "Miss Thompson, you smell just like my mother. And the bracelet looks real pretty on you. I'm glad you like my presents." He left. Miss Thompson got down on her knees and asked God to forgive her and to change her attitude.

The next day, the children were greeted by a reformed teacher -- one committed to loving each of them. Especially the slow ones. Especially Ted. Surprisingly -- or maybe, not surprisingly, Ted began to show great improvement. He actually caught up with most of the students and even passed a few.

Time came and went. Miss Thompson heard nothing from Ted for a long time. Then, one day, she received this note:

Dear Miss Thompson:

I wanted you to be the first to know. I will be graduating second in my class.

Love, Ted

Four years later, another note arrived:

Dear Miss Thompson:

They just told me I will be graduating first in my class. I wanted you to be first to know. The university has not been easy, but I liked it.

Love, Ted

And four years later:

Dear Miss Thompson:

As of today, I am Theodore Stallard, M.D. How about that? I wanted you to be the first to know. I am getting married next month, the 27th to be exact. I want you to come and sit where my mother would sit if she were alive. You are the only family I have now; Dad died last year.

Miss Thompson attended that wedding, and sat where Ted's mother would have sat. The compassion she had shown that young man entitled her to that privilege.

Let's have some real courage, and start giving to "one of the least." He may become a Ted Stallard. Even if that doesn't happen, we will have been faithful to the One who has always treated us -- as unworthy as we are -- like very special people.

See Ya At The Gathering Place.

Bruce