



# The Worker

3108 Hamburg Pike, Jeffersonville, IN 47130 Ph. (812) 284-3125

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[www.hamburgpikecofc.org](http://www.hamburgpikecofc.org)

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## Leadership

**Elders** Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey  
**Deacons** Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,  
 Robby Stocksdale, Joe Sweeney  
**Pulpit Minister** Eric Welch  
**Associate Minister** Irvin F. Williams

## Schedule of Services

### Sunday

Bible Class 10:00 AM  
 Morning Worship 11:00 AM  
 Evening Worship 6:00 PM

### Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 PM

## Panama Mission

Pablo Sanchez

We Offer Free Personal Bible Studies and Bible Correspondence Courses - Phone (812) 284-3125

Visit Our Website: [www.hamburgpikecofc.org](http://www.hamburgpikecofc.org) Email: [church@hamburgpikecofc.org](mailto:church@hamburgpikecofc.org)

## Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: "Why Seek the Dead among the Living?" Acts 17:22-34  
 Sunday Evening: "Wait and See" Exodus 14

## Those Privileged to Serve

AM Service		PM Service		AM & PM Services	
Song Leader	Michael Hawkins	Song Leader	Matt Johnson	Announcements	Robby Stocksdale
Opening Prayer	Harold Tincher	Bible Reading	Ethan Welch	Lord's Supper	Hayward Blanton
Scripture	John Keaton	Selection	13	Offering	Grover Blanton
Sermon	Eric Welch	Prayer	Clint Smith Jr	Usher	Fin Burton
Lord's Supper		Sermon	Eric Welch	Count Offering	Hank Tincher
Message	Irvin Williams	Closing Prayer	Greg Blanton	Assist Count	Joe Sweeney
Attendant	Brandon Montgomery	<i>If you are unable to serve, please call Art Patrick 502-819-9481 or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511</i>		<b>Last Sunday</b>	
Attendant	Art Patrick			Contribution	Attendance
Closing Prayer	Ernie Marshall			\$9,265	73

## Building Character

A 6-year-old said to his father, "I've decided that I want to be a millionaire when I grow up!" His dad responded, "Well! You'll have to work pretty hard to get a million dollars!" "No I won't! YOU will!" the boy retorted. "Me?" his father asked incredulously. The boy responded, "I just want to inherit it!"

Another story has the boy looking at the food set before him, "What's THIS disgusting slimy blob?" His father answered, "Try it, you'll love it!" The boy clearly aggravated said, "Oh yeah? Well, what if I DON'T love it?" His father responded, "Then, it will build character." Under his breath the boy said to himself, "That's my dad, always looking out for me!" (both stories from Bill Watterson's "Calvin & Hobbes")

Think what you want, but there is no doubt that building character requires suffering. Some people may be able to obtain things with little effort, but to become what God wants us to be requires challenges. It requires that we endure challenges so that we can learn from them, grow from them and become more and more like God.

Listen to Paul's words: Romans 5:3-4 *"And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance; and perseverance, character; and character, hope."*

Some people learn perseverance and character and hope faster than others; some never learn it at all! But, for those of us who learn, Paul continues by saying, Romans 5:5 *"Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us."*

God has certainly provided a greater inheritance for us than anything we could ever imagine, yet it required great suffering! Romans 5:6 *"For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."*

If Christ suffered for us, what a great blessing it is when we suffer for Him!

## A Mother's Scar

A little boy invited his mother to attend his elementary school's first teacher-parent conference. To the little boy's dismay, she said she would go. This would be the first time that his classmates and teacher met his mother and he was embarrassed by her appearance. Although she was a beautiful woman, there was a severe scar that covered nearly the entire right side of her face. The boy never wanted to talk about why or how she got the scar.

At the conference, the people were impressed by the kindness and natural beauty of his mother, despite the scar, but the little boy was still embarrassed and hid himself from everyone. He did, however, get within earshot of a conversation between his mother and his teacher, and heard them speaking. "How did you get the scar on your face?" the teacher asked. The mother replied, "When my son was a baby, he was in a room that caught on fire. Everyone was too afraid to go in because the fire was out of control, so I went in. As I was running toward his crib, I saw a beam coming down and I placed myself over him, trying to shield him. I was knocked unconscious but, fortunately, a fireman came in and saved both of us." She touched the burned side of her face. "This scar will be permanent, but to this day, I have never regretted doing what I did."

At this point, the little boy came out running towards his mother with tears in his eyes. He hugged her and felt an overwhelming sense of the sacrifice that his mother had made for him. He held her hand tightly for the rest of the day. (From Chicken Soup for the Soul)

In like manner, Jesus Christ bears the scars He received in His efforts to redeem us.

*"Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Cor. 9:15)*

## Too Little Too Late

Why is it we get interested in the right things when it's just too late?

A young couple marries, but takes one another for granted. He abuses his position as husband, and she resists everything he says or does. Years pass with such neglect, abuse, and mistreatment they end up in a divorce court. In the process of working out a settlement, the husband decides he wishes to repent and reconcile with his wife. Why now? Where was this penitent disposition when it would have saved the marriage? She may resist his offer, deciding that it's no use trying anymore. For her, it's a case of "too little, too late."

A foolish and immature son becomes estranged from his parents. He never calls, never visits, never shares his life with them. The parents agonize, but there is little they can do to have a relationship with a child who wants nothing to do with them. Years pass. Age takes its toll on the parents. One day the son receives a call. His mother is dead. He attends the funeral, weeps loudly and uncontrollably — but for what? The opportunity to love his mother and develop a relationship with her is gone forever. He may now see his immaturity, his selfishness, his ungodly character. He may repent and do better in the future, even caring for his widowed and aged father. But as far as his mother is concerned, it's "too little, too late."

A man lives an immoral and profligate life. He has no time for spiritual things, and has never made preparation for eternity. God is in none of his thoughts. He disdains the "holy Joes" that do their best to serve God. The Day of Judgment comes, and he knows it is "too late." He never prepared himself to meet God. Now he confesses Christ (as all will do, Phil. 2:11) but it is too late. Why didn't he do it in life when he had time and opportunity? He now receives the consequences of choices he made, and his penitent spirit is just a little bit "too little, too late."

Perhaps some personal offense was never corrected and the person to whom you needed to apologize has since died. Is it too late to right a past wrong under such circumstances? Does it have to be a "forever failure"? No! Pray to God for His forgiveness, and make whatever restitution you can for the wrong you committed. As long as the world stands and life is in your body, it is never too late to do the right thing, whether that is little or much.

As a youth, serious mistakes may have been made and sins committed which have followed you into adulthood. Don't let the past keep you from repentance immediately. God will accept you, even now.

"Today" is the day of salvation (Heb. 3:15). Let's use it before it is "too little, too late."

Mark White in Bible Viewpoints, April 25, 1999.

## The Divine Camcorder

Eric Welch

Gordon Bell is a Microsoft researcher who invented a way to recall almost everything in his life. He records everything by carrying with him at all times video equipment, cameras and audio recording devices. He records his conversations, trips and experiences. He uses a device invented by Microsoft that hangs around the neck and records automatically all the details of his life in photos. Bell saves everything—receipts, letters, bills and medical records.

Bell has saved over 350 gigabytes of data, excluding the audio and video portion. He says that this copy of his biological memory is even better than storing things in your head. If you have enough digital storage to place everything, you will never forget. People will be able to store all the details of life on the computer and call it up whenever they want. He said it's like "having a multimedia transcript of your life."

Would you want to remember every detail of your life? I certainly would not want to remember things that I am embarrassed about, or worse, things that I am ashamed of such as my sins.

God has a "divine camcorder" too. He knows everything that we do. All things are open to Him (Heb. 4:13). Do you remember the spiritual song, "Watching You,". "There's an all-seeing Eye watching you." I am thankful that God deletes our sins through the blood of Jesus when we are baptized. He keeps pressing that "delete button" as we acknowledge our sin and walk in His light (1 John 1:8-9). Nor does He keep them in His recycle bin (Jer. 31:34; Heb. 8:12).

Remember, that God's "camcorder" never stops and He will hold accountable those who are not faithful found in His Son (Acts 17:31; 2 Cor. 5:10).

How would the Lord rate your life's recording? G, PG, PG-13 or R.

## Hamburg Pike Happenings

The next Monday Night for the Master group meeting is Monday April 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. Potluck is the meal theme.

The dates for VBS this summer will be Monday, July 20 to Thursday, July 23; from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Helpers are needed for crafts, snacks, decorating, and advertising. There are sign-up sheets in the foyer.

Please mark your calendars for our Spring Gospel Meeting scheduled for Friday April 24<sup>th</sup> at 7pm, Saturday April 25<sup>th</sup> at 7pm and Sunday April 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 & 11am. Justin Rogers from Henderson, TN will be the speaker.

## Go Ahead — Start a Problem!

The good Lord knows that churches of Christ have problems, many of which can have disastrous results. But some church problems should be energetically sought. What kind? Consider:

- The problem of not enough parking spaces, class rooms and pews. Wouldn't it great if we ran out of them?
- The problem of requests for so many home Bible studies we can't handle them. What if we had so many people asking us to teach them the word of God we had to put some of them on a waiting list? Would that be great or what!
- The problem of too many members of the church wanting to teach Bible classes. Wouldn't it be awesome if we had to take numbers and wait in line just to get to teach the Bible?
- The problem of so many youngsters who attend Bible classes we need to add on classrooms. We need such a problem now!
- The problem of wanting to support more evangelists than are available to go into hard places to preach. What a lift it would be if we had so much surplus money that we had to seek out men to support.

You agree these are good problems? You also agree we have had more than enough of the other kind? If you can cause us to have these problems, have at it! Please!