

## 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)



# The Worker

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## What Keeps a Local Congregation Going?

"Then had the churches rest throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied."

There is a formula for congregational life in this passage. Congregations of the Lord's church have been known to suffer death because the time honored principles of inspiration were ignored. Let's look at the inspired formula a little closer.

**Local churches need rest.** Rest is also "a time of peace." Every local church needs such peace. This was not peace resulting from diminishing the work and worship God assigned to her, but a time of peace from problems. The churches in Judea and Galilee had gone through both internal and external difficulties. By their faith and dedication to keeping the Lord's church active and alive, no difficulties hindered their growth. That's a lesson for us. A dedicated group of Christians can outlast any problem that threatens their togetherness.

**These churches were edified.** That means they were strengthened and built up. Peter wrote, "You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 2:5). Any congregation that lives and grows must be built up. This requires the effort of every member of the congregation. "From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work" (Eph. 4:16).

**The churches "walked in the fear of the Lord."** In order for a congregation to walk in the fear of the Lord, all the members must live by the same rule (Phil. 3:16). That rule is the will of the Lord. Those who fear the Lord never take liberties with his will. Walking by the same rule assures and maintains the blessed fellowship among those who seek to keep a local church active, well and going. Walking in the fear of the Lord is synonymous with walking in the comfort of the Holy Spirit. "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all" (2 Cor 13:14). Paul said the church is God's temple and is indwelt by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 3:16-17).

There is no greater thing a group of Christians can do than to keep the local church active and going in the fear of the Lord.

A.T. Robertson said, "The multiplication of the disciples kept pace with the peace, the edification, the walking in the fear of the Lord, the comfort of the Holy Spirit." Never let any trifling thing disrupt the growth of God's church.

Author Unknown

### Leadership

**Elders** Hayward Blanton, Jerry Casey

**Deacons** Clint Smith Sr, Clint Smith Jr,  
Robby Stocksdales, Joe Sweeney

**Pulpit Minister** Eric Welch

**Associate Minister** Irvin F. Williams

### Panama Mission

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### Sermon Titles

Sunday Morning: "Learn the Secrets of True Happiness" Philippians 4:8-9

Sunday Afternoon Devotional

### Those Privileged to Serve

#### AM Service

Song Leader Michael Hawkins  
Opening Prayer Grover Blanton  
Scripture Fin Burton  
Sermon Eric Welch  
Lord's Supper  
Message Rick Martin  
Attendant Marc Owens  
Attendant Art Patrick  
Closing Prayer Robby Stocksdales

#### PM Service

Song Leader Clint Smith Jr  
Bible Reading Leon Stocksdales  
Selection 20  
Prayer Greg Blanton  
Sermon Eric Welch  
Closing Prayer Bill Cravens  
*If you are unable to serve, please  
call Art Patrick 502-819-9481  
or Harold Tincher 502-409-3511*

#### AM & PM Services

Announcements Clint Smith Sr  
Lord's Supper Jerry Casey  
Offering Doug McArthur  
Usher Ernie Marshall  
Count Offering Art Patrick  
Assist Count Marc Owens

#### Last Sunday

Offering \$2,909  
Attendance 91

## The Real Thing

Eric Welch

If you happen to see adults acting strangely at the mall or at the cemetery as they look into their phones, don't be alarmed. They are likely playing the latest rage in the video game world called "Pokémon Go." This game is a smartphone app that uses the phone's GPS tracking and camera features to capture virtual images of the games' creatures, called "Pokemon." The game gets people outside to find the creatures that appear in random locations on your phone's camera. You go to that location to capture it. I understand that you advance to higher, more challenging levels.

I wonder if the game developers thought of the potential danger the players might walk into. The news reported that two teenagers were able to lure several players to a specific location and rob them. What if a critter appears in your neighbor's backyard, a busy intersection or in a bathroom of the opposite sex? Sadly, the most severe case reported this week was the moment a man was hit by a train as he attempted to capture his Pokemon that had appeared on the railroad tracks. He was killed instantly. I will not be surprised if the players eventually capture the game developers with lawsuits. "Pokemon Go" might soon be "Pokemon Went."

Why would anyone die needlessly just to "capture" something imaginary? Well, let's not be too hard on the fellow. After all, most people spend their entire lives in endless pursuit of power, possessions, prestige and pleasure only to find in the end that those things are unreal. They have lived and died in vain.

How are worldly things unreal? John explains it this way: *"<sup>15</sup>Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. <sup>16</sup>For all that is in the world--the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride in possessions--is not from the Father but is from the world. <sup>17</sup>And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever"* (1 John 2:15-17).

The only reality that we can count on in this life is God's Will through His Son Jesus Christ. Are you pursuing Him?

### Think on This...

- If you aren't living it, you don't believe it.
- A Christian shows what he is by what he does with what he has!
- Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the people you can, in every place you can, and as long as ever you can.
- Experience is one thing you can't get on the easy payment plan.
- Don't be like a wheel barrow . . . always having to be pushed and very easily upset.

## Hamburg Pike Happenings

VBS will be Monday, July 18 thru Thursday, July 21 from 7 to 8:30 P.M. This year's theme is "God's Amazing Laboratory!" from Genesis 1 and 2. Volunteers are needed for decorating classrooms, serving snacks, helping the kids with crafts, and tearing everything down on the last night of VBS. Any questions please see Ashley or Stephanie.

A work day is scheduled to prepare for the upcoming VBS for Saturday July 16<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am until Noon. Volunteers are needed for preparing decorations, assembling crafts etc. Any questions please see Ashley or Stephanie.

A Fellowship meal is scheduled for Sunday July 17<sup>th</sup> immediately after the morning worship service; a sign-up sheet is in the foyer. Following the Fellowship meal there will be a brief worship service; we will not have an evening worship. Final preparations for VBS will be completed following the afternoon worship service.

Attention Youth group: Please invite your family and friends to our VBS. If we have at least 50 kids each night, we will have a "Build Your Own Taco" party for the youth group.

The Building Committee and the VBS committee would like to thank everyone who participated in the workday on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Much needed work was done to cleanup rooms for storage, extensive landscaping and preparation for our upcoming VBS. Special thanks to Ashly Smith and Stephanie Welch for all their hard work preparing for VBS.

### Just a Minute

I have only just a minute. Only sixty seconds in it.

Forced upon me, can't refuse it. Didn't see it, didn't choose it.

But it's up to me to use it. I must suffer if I lose it.

Just a tiny little minute, But eternity is in it!

Author Unknown