

The PRISM



Sunshine Church of Christ

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January 9, 2005

Vol. 40 — Issue 2

Where is God?

I feel compelled to write about the climbing death toll and the tsunamis that struck South Asia following an earthquake northwest of Indonesia at on December 26. I know some are saying, "How could God allow this?"

A passage in 1 Kings 19:11-12 interests me in this regard. God's prophet Elijah is ready to give up because of opposition to his preaching. He heads to the hills, so to speak. It is there the Lord finds him.

"Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the Lord, for the Lord is about to pass by," the Lord said. "Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the Lord, but the Lord was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the Lord was not in the earthquake. After the earthquake came a fire, but the Lord was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper."

Elijah found the Lord -- in a gentle whisper, not in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire.

I think all our hearts are broken by the great destruction among our fellow men. I am glad to hear that our country is sending \$350 million to help, joining with the world to come to the aid of the survivors. I am glad to hear of so much individual outpouring of help, too.

This disaster in Asia will turn out to be one of the world's major recorded ones in the last several hundred years, though it has yet to reach the 830,000 documented in a 1556 China earthquake. It will certainly set a record for recorded tsunamis. Indonesia lost 36,000 from a tsunami in 1883; Japan lost 30,000 in 1707 and another 27,000 in 1896 from tsunamis. But, I am certain these numbers only touch the surface of the bigger worldwide disasters through time. This Asian disaster is now reported 10 times over what was initially reported, and it continues to grow.

Wanting to place responsibility, perhaps, some will say only that it was the "providence of God." "God took them," some say. In larger disasters, we hear, "God was extremely angry!" But this takes me back to Elijah, where God was not in what might have been thought the obvious but in the whisper.

While it is true that Bible documentation has God acting against people, causing great disasters (the flood of Noah's time, for example), I do not believe the intent is to say that God controls, directly causes, everything bad that happens to humankind. That is not to say that He could not. He can!

God created all of it, like rain, wind, earthquakes, and, yes, the moving plates way down deep in the sea off Indonesia. It might be that God designed it, in part, to show us our weakness. He might have made it this way to periodically get our attention, to cause us to think. It does not mean God could not have made it perfect as we see perfect. While we are told that God takes care of the flowers of the field and the birds of the air, we also read that God's people suffered greatly -- for example, Jesus on the cross! In the end, it is our spirit that lives forever. What we do here determines where we spend eternity. Jesus is ready! Are we?

Chuck Owen

Northside Church of Christ
Laredo, TX



For the millions affected by the tsunami

For our national leaders and world leaders as they lead their respective nations.

For our troops in Afghanistan, Bosnia, Korea, Iraq, Liberia, Haiti and other places.

For the lost in our families and community.

For the ban on partial birth abortion to stand as law.

For marriage to stand in our laws as God ordained it.

For the church in Siliguri and Naresh Chetri

For Tim and Jennifer in the adoption process

Don Lemon has completed his chemotherapy but is waiting for a cat scan before he will know if any more treatments are required.

Dick Havens has another cat scan and more blood work scheduled to see what can be done to get off the supplemental oxygen.

Goldie Wheeler (friend to Jim Jacobs and Eugene Risner) has been diagnosed with advanced liver cancer.

Tracey Boland (Jennifer Gampp's cousin) is still having significant kidney problems while she is pregnant. Prayers requested for her and the baby.

Austin Coriell fell a few weeks ago and is still home recuperating.

Sarah Riley (Jamie's mother) had an episode of congestive heart failure last week and is in Grant Hospital in Columbus.

Jim Pugh from the Clifton congregation in Cincinnati had surgery on Thursday to remove the bulk of a brain tumor. No word as yet to the outcome of the operation.

Brandon Hughes (son of Kristi Cordle's coworker) was involved in a serious auto accident on Tuesday or Wednesday and suffered major organ damage. He was taken to the trauma center at UK Hospital in Lexington.

Mary Jane Anderson (friend of the Graff family in Jenkins, KY) is in the hospital with a blood clot in her lung. Outlook is not good, prayers are requested by the family.

Scheduled Bible Study Texts

Sunday		Wednesday	
1/9	Mk 10:32-52	1/12	Gen 18
1/16	Lk 19:1-28	1/19	Gen 19
1/23	Jn 11:55-12:19	1/26	Gen 20-23
	Mt 21:1-17		
	Mk 11:1-33		
	Lk 19:28-48		
1/30	Mt 21:28-22	2/2	Gen 24
	Mt 25:1-46		
2/6	Mt 22:15-23:37	2/9	Gen 25-26
2/13	Mk 12:41-44	2/16	Gen 27
	Jn 12:21-50		
2/20	Mt 24:1-51	2/23	Gen 28
2/27	Mt 26:17-30		
	Mk 14:12-26		
	Lk 22:1-38		
	Jn 13-17		

Looking Ahead at Sunshine

1/16	Elders and Deacons Meeting
1/20	Shepherd's Prayer Session
1/23	Open House for Campus Ministry
2/5	Father-Daughter Valentine Gala
2/18-20	Winterfest in Gatlinburg
2/20-3/20	Sunday PM Home Groups
4/22-24	Youth Rally at Fort Hill Camp

Sympathy Extended

To the family of **Brett Fannin** (nephew to Alma Coriell and Homer Miller) who passed away early this week. The funeral was this week in Lancaster, Ohio.

To the family of **Jared Dever** (26 year old grand nephew to Eldon Conkel) who passed away last week. The funeral was Wednesday.

*The world with its lust
passes away, but he who does
the will of God remains forever.*
1 John 2:17

Sunday PM Services

This evening Scott Gampp will be leading us in scripture, prayer and song.

Teen Devo

At Terry and Debbie's, 6:30 pm, Tuesday.

Skit Practice

The Lord's Army has a skit practice today at 5 p.m.

Happy Birthday

Today Charlotte Brisker celebrates her 89th birthday. Happy Birthday, Charlotte!

Shepherd's Prayer Session

Thursday, January 20, 7:30 pm, the elders will be getting together for a special prayer session for the church. If you have special requests that you would like included in that prayer, see one of the elders right away.

Meeting of Deacons and Elders

The elders would like to meet with all of the deacons on January 16 at 5 pm. Deacons, please see one of the elders if you have not been notified about this meeting.

Children's Bible Time

We have no one on the schedule to handle Children's Bible Time for the month of February. Would you like to try your hand at this ministry for one month? If so, please see Joanne Miller or Steve Miller.

Thank You for Youth Volunteers

A special fellowship to thank everyone who has helped with youth activities during 2004 is to be scheduled for later this month. If you did anything to help out (hosted a devo, drove to an event, made cookies, etc.) please plan to attend this event. More details later.

Campus Ministry Open House

The church and anyone else who is interested is invited to come to an Open House at the new Campus Ministry facility at 4^h and Gay St. in Portsmouth on Sunday, January 23, from 2 to 5 pm.

Father-Daughter Gala

The Father-Daughter Valentine Gala is set for Saturday, February 5, 2005, at the Minford High School gymnasium. Willer Wood (Willard Tate) will be our guest entertainment. In addition to volunteers to help with set-up, clean up, serving, decorating, etc., we need people to be in the bleachers to clap and cheer for each Father-Daughter couple. More information to come.

Flu Shots Today

This morning after services the Health Ministry Team will be giving flu shots in the fellowship hall. Guidelines for flu shots have been expanded to include anyone age 50 and above. If you fit in the new guidelines or if you fit the previous guidelines but missed getting a shot, 25 of the shots are available today on a first-come, first-served basis. Cost is \$15/shot or have Medicare/Medicaid card and billing information available. Sorry we couldn't give more notice, the shots were offered to us at the last minute.

Impact Sign-up

Attention teens! We need to get registered for Impact right away so we don't get closed out as we have before. If you are planning to attend Impact this year, please contact Terry Sullivan ASAP and let him know!

2005 Budget

Copies of the proposed 2005 budget for the church are on the table in the foyer. Please pick up a copy, if you have comments or questions talk with one of the elders.

Those Who Serve

Scheduled Services

Sunday

Bible Study - 9:45 am
Worship - 10:30 am
Eve.Worship - 6:30 p.m

Wednesday

Bible Study - 7:30 p.m.

The Prism is a publication of the Sunshine Church of Christ. To learn more about the Church of Christ you may contact us at the telephone number or address on the front cover.

Deadline for each issue is 5 p.m. Friday. News items may be called to Steve Miller or Al Graff or e-mailed to:

bulletin@sunshine-church.org

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Sunday Morning

Bible Class Text
Welcome & Prayer
Song Director
Scripture Reading
Prayer
Lord's Supper - Wine
Bread
Assist
Assist
Assist
Assist
Message
Closing Prayer

January 9

Mk 10:32-52
Tom Kelley
Ralph Gampp
Shawn Gragg
Jamie Riley
Mark Risner
Mike Gampp
Jim Jacobs, Sr.
Jack Jennings
Matt Hoskins
Jerry Gampp
Steve Miller
Dewey Cordle

January 16

Lk 19:1-28
Wayne Gampp
Taylor Hoskins
Al Graff
Jason Coriell
Terry Sullivan
Jamie Riley
Kevin Stimpert
Ira Coriell
Dale Gampp
Ryan Coriell
Steve Miller
Greg Coriell

Sunday Evening

Song Director
Opening Prayer
Lord's Supper
Closing Prayer

Aaron McCray
Matt Cramm
Gary Glispie
Mike Coriell

Bud Coriell
Wayne Gampp
Josh Coriell
John Berry

Wednesday Evening

Song Director
Prayer
Bible Class Text

Jeff Hayward
Aaron Franke
Genesis 18

Gabe Coriell
Terry Royster
Genesis 19

Elders

Don Coriell	776-6346	dcoriell@sunshine-church.org
Jon Coriell	776-3248	jcoriell@sunshine-church.org
Wayne Gampp	820-3444	wgampp@sunshine-church.org
Tom Kelley	259-2258	tkelley@sunshine-church.org

Evangelists

Steve Miller	820-4379	smiller@sunshine-church.org
Pager	290-0156	
Jamie Riley	820-3348	jriley@sunshine-church.org
Pager	290-0158	

Building 820-3415
Building Fax 820-5450
Campus Ministry 355-3186

Office Hours: 8-12 M-F
sunshinecofc@peoplepc.com

Deacons & Areas of Ministry

Rich Book	820-3213	Education, Elbrooke Services, Library
Bud Coriell	776-3452	Building Remodeling
Mike Coriell	820-3415	Local Benevolence
Jason Coriell	820-4739	Treasurer, Office Supplies
Scott Gampp	820-3545	Worship, Special Events
Gary Glispie	776-4279	Church Directory, Program of Work
Alan Graff	776-7905	Bulletin, Advert., Front sign, Computers
Dick Havens	456-5009	Building Maint., Supplies
Taylor Hoskins	820-4645	Worship, Insurance, Budget
Shaun McCray	776-7738	Treasurer, Office Supplies
Homer Miller	776-7550	Funerals, Hosp. Visit., Attendance
Eugene Risner	820-2256	Fire, Health, Seniors, Joy of Giving
Willis Shumway	820-2833	Bldg. Use & Security, Baptistry
Terry Sullivan	776-7056	Youth Ministry

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