

# The Union Baptist Church Newsletter



Volume 3, Issue 7

## **A DEVOTIONAL FOR MEN ON THE GO**

### **“In Perishable Containers”**

*“But this precious treasure – this light and power that now shine within us – is held in perishable containers, that is, in our weak bodies. So everyone can see that our glorious power is from God and is not our own.” AMEN.  
(CORINTHIANS 4:7)*

**T**he last week has been a stark reminder to me that we proclaim the treasure of the gospel from bodies that will perish.

Our friend, Cynthia, is a very talented woman. She was on her way to a Bible study when she received a call from the local fire chief. Her house was on fire, and they wanted her to return so that could confirm that it was her house. Her kids had not been at home, but she lost three pets in the fire. She relocated to a rental house and began the tedious process of working with the insurance companies and contractors. As soon as she got settled in to her temporary home, she received another phone call and was told that her dad had a heart attack. As I am writing this, her dad is in the midst of a bypass surgery.

Another friend, Clay, is one of the finest Christian thinkers in southern California. He was recently diagnosed with a tumor in his back. It was located along the spinal cord and was creating consistent pain. He was operated on a week ago. The doctors had to remove one vertebra with the tumor but only had to sever one nerve. He has a long road ahead with radiation treatments and physical and occupational therapy. Through it all, he is grateful that it isn't worse.

Both of these individuals have had a very positive impact on the world around them, both of their lives have been interrupted by the frail nature of human life. We live in a world that is overly concerned, even obsessed, with appearance and human abilities. But as men of God, we always need to remember our bodies, no matter how strong or weak or beautiful or homely they may be, are just the containers for what's really inside us. AMEN.

*Oh Jesus, may my weak body never hide your presence in my life but instead be a tool to share the gospel with others. AMEN.*

*Devotional for Men on the Go — Arterburn and Farel*

## **A MEDIATION FOR EVERY MARRIED COUPLE**

### **“A Prayer for Others”**

*“The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much.”  
(JAMES 5:16 NASB)*

**H**ere is a prayer by John Baillie to help you live this day being concerned for others.

Lord,

I thank you for pursuing me with your love even when I wasn't interested. I thank you that you give me thoughts to guide me and that you strengthen my will through your Holy Spirit. Sometimes I think some things happen by chance, but I am learning that with you there is no “chance” or “accident.” Thank you for the way your Spirit leads. Keep me from being blind to your Spirit's direction. I pray that each day I would grow more into the person that you would have me to be. I pray that I would become more like your son, Jesus.

But I want to pray for more than just myself. There are also many others in need and I tend to overlook them.

I pray for those struggling with temptations right at this moment.

I pray for the strength for the people who have tasks that are overwhelming them.

I pray for wisdom for the men and women who are struggling with decisions difficult to make.

For those overcome by debt or poverty;

For those experiencing the consequences of behavior done a long time ago and forgiven by you;

For those who at an early age were abused or never had a chance to experience life;

For families torn apart by divorce or death.

For those serving you in countries I don't even know about.

I pray that the concerns of my prayers would be less focused on me and more on the others you love, as well.

In Jesus' name, AMEN.

*After You Say, “I Do” — H. Norman Wright*

**TEEN'S CORNER –  
GOT QUESTIONS –  
GOD'S GOT ANSWERS...**



**QUESTION:**

*If I want God to Guide me, what should I do?*

**THE QUICK ANSWER:**

- *Pray for guidance. When you seek it, He will give it.*

**"God's Guidance!"**

*"Lord, You light up my lamp; my God illuminates my darkness."  
(Psalm 18:28 HCSB)*

The Bible promises that God will guide you if you let Him. But sometimes, you will be tempted to do otherwise. Sometimes, you'll be tempted to go along with the crowd; other times, you'll be tempted to do things your way, not God's way. When you feel those temptations, resist them.

What will you allow to guide you through the coming day; your own desires (or, for that matter, the desires of your friends)? Or will you allow God to lead the way? The answer should be obvious. You should let God be your guide. When you entrust your life to Him completely and without reservation, God will give you the strength to meet any challenge, the courage to face any trial, and the wisdom to live in His righteousness. So trust Him today and seek His guidance. When you do, your next step will be the right one.

Ours is a society that is filled to the brim with countless opportunities to squander our time, our resources, and our talents. So we must be watchful for distractions and temptation that might lead us astray.

If you're sincerely interested in building a successful career, build it upon the talents that God (in His infinite wisdom) has given you. Don't try to build a career around the talents you wish He had given you.

God has blessed you with unique opportunities to serve Him, and He has given you every tool that you need to do so. Today, accept this challenge: value the talent that God has given you, nourish it, make it grow, and share it with the world. After all, the best way to say "Thank You" for God's gifts is to use them. AMEN.

*100 Questions Teens Ask with Answers from God's Word – By Freeman Smith*

***A Little Humor For The  
"Hearts and Minds of God's People"***

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***Topic: Easter  
"Get the Story Straight"***

The teacher was extremely enthusiastic. She looked at the class of four-year-olds and asked this question: "Does anyone know what today is?" A little girl held up her finger and said "Yes, today is Palm Sunday." The teacher exclaimed, "That's fantastic. That's wonderful. Now does anyone know what next Sunday is?" The same little girl held up her finger. She said, "Yes, next Sunday is Easter Sunday." Once again the teacher said "That's fantastic." Now, does anyone know what makes next Sunday Easter?" The same little girl responded and said, "Yes, next Sunday is Easter because Jesus rose from the grave." Before the teacher could congratulate her, she kept on talking and said, "But if he sees his shadow, he has to go back in for seven weeks."

*1001 Humorous Illustrations for Public Speaking: Fresh, Timely, and ... –By Michael Hodgin*

Laughter  
is an  
instant  
vacation.  
— Milton Berle



## **A Devotional for Singles**

### **“What Kind of a Friend Are You?”**

*“Now it came about when he had finished speaking to Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit to the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as himself.”  
(— 1 Samuel 18:1)*

Friendship — we were created for it. If you have some close friends, you are rich. We all need them. Friends help to complete our lives. And here’s some-thing else you may not be aware of: Romantic relationships that evolve out of friendship form the best basis for lasting marriage. God’s Word has much to say about friendship.

If ever two men had a close friendship, it was David and Jonathan. In fact, they are a great model for what it means to have a close friendship.

Real friendship is deeper than acquaintances (those we work with, workout with or share mutual fence with). Real friendship means to be one in spirit.

“One in spirit” means you are on the same wavelength. You connect, you relate well, you share similar values and a similar view of life. When you’re both Christian, you know the same God and want the same thing for your lives.

Let’s look further into the friendship of David and Jonathan in 1 Samuel 18. There was an intense bonding of love: “And Jonathan loved [David] as himself” (v. 1).

Friendship involves a deep commitment to the other person and a willingness to be vulnerable. We see this in verses three and four: “And Jonathan made a covenant with David because he loved him as himself. Jonathan took off the robe he was wearing and gave it to David, along with his tunic and even his sword, his bow and his belt” (vv. 3, 4, NIV).

Friendship involves loyalty — sticking to the other person during times of difficulty. Jonathan’s father Saul wanted to kill David, but “Jonathan spoke well of David” (1 Samuel 19:4, NIV). True friends speak well of one another when they’re not together. They focus on the positive and let the negatives slide.

Close friends encourage each other. When David was discouraged and hiding from those who wanted to hurt him, Jonathan came through: “And Saul’s son Jonathan went to David at Horesh and helped him find strength in God” (1 Samuel 23:16, NIV).

The examples of David and Jonathan provide a great prototype for friendship. But are you also aware of what Proverbs says about friendship? Proverbs is emphatic that a few close friends are better than a lot of acquaintances. One characteristic that is greatly emphasized in Proverbs is reflected in the relationship of David and Jonathan — consistency. Real friends stick to you no matter what:

**A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity (17:17).**

**This is the kind of friendship you are urged to give:**

**Do not forsake your own friend or your father’s friend, and do not go to your brother’s house in the day of your calamity; better is a neighbor who is near than a brother far away (27:10).**

**Another characteristic highlighted in Proverbs is candor. Friends can tell it like it is:**

**A man who flatters his neighbor is spreading a net for his steps (29:5)**

**Candor builds rather than tears down the friendship. Directness adds to the relationship rather than distracts.**

**One of the advantages of friendship is the two-way counsel or help that can occur.** Some of the counsel has the effect of cheering you on and some may challenge you but a true friendship has both elements:

**Oil and perfume make the heart glad, so a man’s counsel is sweet to his friend (27:9).**

**Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another (27:17).**

**Another characteristic is something often lacking today — tact. Respect for another person’s feelings — not being intrusive — is a reflection of tact:**

**He who blesses his friend with a loud voice early in the morning, it will be reckoned a curse to him (27:14)**

**Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows and death, so is the man who deceives his neighbor, and says, “Was I not joking?” (26:18, 19).**

So, the big question is not, Do your friends reflect these qualities? The question is, Do you? When you are a loyal friend to others, others will want to be a loyal friend to you. AMEN.

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

*Do you value your friendships? What are the qualities that make you a good friend to others?  
As you read the scriptures for today, what were some of the weaknesses you discovered in yourself?  
What steps are you willing to take to be a better friend? AMEN.*

*~ Single Purpose—A Devotional for Singles- H. Norman Wright*

**INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR  
SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2015**



*Birthday Wishes to Everyone Who  
Was Born in the Month of March*

**UBC COMMUNICATION CARDS:** Anyone worshipping with us today and "making a decision for Christ" by using one of our **UBC Communication Cards found in the pocket of the pews, is encouraged to follow-up your decision TODAY, by contacting REVEREND ALVIN L. WYATT, Minister of Christian Life and Witness at the church office. When calling, please leave **your name and the spelling of your name, the date and time of your call, and, most importantly, a telephone number where you can be reached.** Reverend Wyatt will be in touch as quickly as possible after receiving your phone call, as to the next steps regarding your decision(s) for Christ. **GOD BLESS YOU.****

**INTERCESSORY PRAYER MINISTRY:** For the convenience and support of the Union Baptist Church membership and our guests, a **Prayer Request Box with Forms is available in the vestibule leading into the Sanctuary.** Please feel free to place your Prayer Request(s) in the box at any time. Our Prayer Partners stand ready to pray with you, and for you. Thank you, **Deacon Norman and Sister Ann White, Ministry Leaders.**

**NEED A RIDE TO SUNDAY SCHOOL OR 10:20 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE?** If you are in need of a ride to Church, please call **the church office** and leave your name and your telephone number. Due to a shortage of volunteer drivers, we will not list who is driving each Sunday. If you are interested in becoming a driver on Sundays, (van/mini bus — you must possess a CDL to drive the mini bus), please call **the church office.** **GOD BLESS YOU.**

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## CONTINUED INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2015

**MEN: A New and Powerful Bible Study Series entitled "It's Not Too Late" is about to begin.** If you've ever wondered, "Is it too late for God to do something with me?" this study is for you. God frequently uses broken people to accomplish His purposes on earth. A broken person who has learned dependence on God is a force to be reckoned with. This six-session study looks at three men and three women of the Bible who were used mightily by God despite their previous mistakes. You too can learn to focus on the potential of your future, not the missteps of your past. **Each week following the video session, Pastor Yates facilitates the Instructional and Discussion Time that remains, assisted by Reverend Barry Hixon, Co-facilitator of the Weekly Men's Bible Study and Fellowship. PASTOR YATES**

**WEDNESDAY NOON DAY BIBLE STUDY:** Our noon day Bible Study is held every **Wednesday from 12:00 Noon to 1:00 p.m.** (a light lunch is served immediately following the Bible Study). This **Series Subject** is: **"The Study of God-Life's Most Meaningful Pursuit."** The Study of God is the most meaningful pursuit in life. **Jeremiah 9:23-24** expresses the importance of knowing God: **"Thus says the Lord, Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom and not the mighty man boast of his might, let not a rich man boast of his riches; but let Him who boasts boast of this, that He understands and knows Me."** Of all the things that matter in life, to know God through a purposeful study of His nature, His character, and His perfections should be our driving force. Only then will we be able to define everything else accurately. Remember all are welcome, it's never too late, and may we be blessed with your presence very soon. **PASTOR YATES.**

### **WEDNESDAY EVENING CHURCH-WIDE PRAISE & WORSHIP, PRAYER & BIBLE STUDY 7:00 - 8:30**

**P.M.:** Mid-week Praise and Worship, Prayer and Bible Study is held every **Wednesday at 7:00 p.m.** in the sanctuary. Private Prayer and meditation begins at **6:00 p.m.** for those who come early. Each week as the church gathers at **7:00 p.m.**, we are lead in praise in worship by a praise team under the leadership of our Minister of Music, Brother Jason Bailey. It is also my prayer that the entire leadership of the church and each member Will Make Every Sacrifice to be Present to worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to pray and to study His Word from the Bible. Remember the words of **Hebrews 10:24, 25:** **"And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is: but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."** Reach out and bring someone with you. Thank you, God Bless You and May God Keep You, Always" is My Prayer. **PASTOR YATES.**

**THE INTERDENOMINATIONAL CHURCH USHERS ASSOCIATION OF CINCINNATI (ICUA):** is part of a National Organization of Church Ushers. **ICUA** is an organization that shares a system of usher training to assist ushers in serving God and their church through the ushering Ministry. This is done on a yearly basis through a 16 - week course that is taught at a church in Cincinnati. Since Saturday, October 11, 2014, the **"George T. Grier School of Ushering"** has been held at **Olivet Baptist Church**, The church is located at **6838 Montgomery Road, Cincinnati, OH 45236.** The meetings occur on the **2nd and 4th Saturday of each month**, and **will end this May 2015.** The time is from **10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.** If you have any questions please see **Sister Shirley Norman, Chief Usher.**

**UNION BAPTIST CHURCH OF CINCINNATI WEBSITE ([www.union-baptist.net](http://www.union-baptist.net)):** Your Church's **Website**, is a means towards personal spiritual growth, evangelization, worship, etc. Union's website contains various links to **devotional websites**, and **inspirational articles on various subjects that matter most to your life, and, the life of those who are part of your family, community and the world at large.** **Visit Union's website**, which is **updated** on a **regular basis** and encourage your family, friends and others that you meet and greet during the course of the day, to visit the Church's website, as well!

**CONTINUED INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR  
SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2015**

**UBC UPDATED MEMBERSHIP DATA FORM:** All members who have not already completed their UBC Updated Membership Form, are urged to **immediately complete and provide your updated information**, including, any **name change, your current home address, your home, cell and work telephone numbers**, a number where you may be reached in **case of an emergency**, and, an **emergency contact person**, etc. **Membership Data Forms are available on the table outside the Office Manager's office.** When you have completed your form, **please place it in Pastor Yates' mailbox outside of his study.**  
**Thank You, Pastor Yates.**

**UNION BAPTIST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY:** Praise God, with the help of our members and, **Union's Food Pantry** staff, on **Thursday, March 26, 2015**, we were able to serve **18 needy families** in our neighboring community. We sincerely thank all those who brought in your donations which made this possible. Our Food Pantry continually needs your support in keeping our pantry stocked. For the month of **April**, please donate **boxed grits, flavored Oatmeal and/or other boxed cereal, (i.e., Corn Flakes, Wheaties, Cheerios, Rice Krispies)** etc., **however, we are still in need of canned goods, and will gratefully accept any and all non-perishable items such as Hamburger and Tuna Helper, Jiffy Mix, etc.** When you make your donations, please make sure the **"use by date" has not expired.** With your help we can continue to meet the needs of our community neighbors in need. **Our next Food Pantry Day** is scheduled for **Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**God Bless You, Sister Monica Ray, Ministry Leader**

**ANNUAL "GOOD FRIDAY" CELEBRATION:** "Good Friday" will be observed on **Friday, April 3, 2015** from **12:00 Noon – 3:00 p.m.** here at Union. Various Pastors of the City will be preaching the **"seven last words from the Cross."** A guest soloists from each participating church will provide music during this Worship Celebration. All members are encouraged to be present and to invite your family and friends. **UNION'S Worship Celebration is open to the public. Come when you can, leave when you must. Thank you, Pastor Yates.**

**EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES, APRIL 5, 2015:** **Easter Sunrise Worship Celebration** (with **Holy Communion**) will begin at **6:15 a.m.** Our **Easter Sunday School Program** will begin at **8:30 a.m.** **Resurrection Worship Celebration** (with **Holy Communion** will begin at **10:20 a.m.** Breakfast will be served in **Hayes Hall immediately following the Sunrise Worship Celebration for those in attendance..**

**UNION BAPTIST BOARD OF TRUSTEES:** There will be a **scheduled election of new and current members** of the **UBC Board of Trustees** at the **Quarterly Church Conference on April 20, 2015.** Mandatory classes are required for all new candidates. The next classes are scheduled for **March 30<sup>th</sup>** and **April 20<sup>th</sup> 2015.** Classes will be conducted by **Pastor Yates, Sister Faye Shirley and current Board Members.** For further information and/or questions, please contact **Dr. Roland C. McGoodwin, Nominating Committee at (513) 242-5555.**

**ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:** On today, **March 29, 2015**, labels were distributed to our members. Please be sure to **follow-up over the "Spring Season" and send a greeting card** to our **sick and shut-in members** who are at convalescing home, or those who are in hospitals, nursing homes or other long-term care facilities. Thank you in advance for your **caring and sharing.** **Sister Viola Grace, UBC Greeter Card Ministry.**