

Weatherly Weekly

April 18, 2021

2021 Edition, Number 16

Don't Save It

Michael W. McLemore

The story is told of an elderly man who lay dying in his bed. In death's throes, he suddenly smelled the aroma of his favorite chocolate chip cookies wafting up the stairs. He gathered his remaining strength, and lifted himself from the bed. Leaning against the wall, he slowly made his way out of the bedroom, and with even greater effort forced himself down the stairs, gripping the railing with both hands.

With labored breath, he leaned against the doorframe, gazing into the kitchen. Were it not for the pain he felt, he might have thought himself already in heaven: There, spread out on the kitchen table were literally hundreds of his favorite chocolate chip cookies. Was it heaven? Or was it merely one final act of heroic love from his devoted wife, seeing to it that he left this world a happy man?

Mustering one great final effort, he threw himself against the table. His aged and withered hand made its way to a cookie at the edge of the table, when his wife suddenly smacked it with a spatula. "Stay out of those," she said. "They're for the funeral."

It seems to me that the soon to be widow is not the only person to save something for a funeral that should have been shared long before. Isn't it a shame that many of the comments made at a funeral reflect the realization that folks didn't express their feelings adequately to those they loved while they were alive: "What a wonderful friend she was. I never told her how much I appreciated what she meant to me!" "I hope he realizes how much I loved him!"

If someone means something special to you, don't save it for the funeral. Share it with them now! ☐

Is the World a BETTER PLACE

...because you're in it?

By Gary Ogden

That's a soul-searching question worthy of deep consideration by every person, especially those who claim to be children of God. Can you think of Bible heroes who made the world a better place? Abraham, Moses, Deborah, Ruth, Joseph, Mary, Jesus Christ.

Clearly there are people in the world who are not interested in making the world more beautiful and pleasant to live in. They live only for selfish ends, self-centered indulgence. Robbers, child abusers, murderers, peddlers of pornography.

The children of God know that they are the salt of the earth, the light of the world (Matthew 5:13-15). Salt preserves and light dispels darkness and brightens the way. Christians do not hide their lights but rather "let them shine". I shudder to think what the world would be like if there were no Christians in it. If the "children of darkness" were in complete control, it would be a miserable existence for certain! It's bad enough as it is.

One reason the world is a better place because Christians are in it, is because they have their hearts and affections on a truly "better place." "But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them," *Heb. 11:16*. Like Abraham, they're waiting "for a city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God" *Heb 11:10*.

They know this life is filled with bad things and people and it will not always be nice and pleasant. They make it their aim, while pilgrims here, to spread as much joy and kindness around as they can. They brighten the corner where they are and bloom where they are planted. When they leave this old world behind, they are sorely missed. The world is a little darker when one of its lights has been extinguished.

Can you imagine the great void that was felt when the apostle Paul finished his course? At one time, he and his preaching companions were accused of "turning the world upside down." He traveled far and wide to spread the precious message of the gospel of Christ and brought light and salvation to a lost and dying world. He planted "beautiful gardens" all over the place when he established churches in vari-

ous heathen cities. By every measurement, the world became a better place because of his devotion.

An example from the natural realm illustrates our point. A man who lived in Denmark was commissioned by the king to rid a certain island of pirates. Upon accomplishing his task, the king granted his faithful servant a plot of land on the island. It was a rocky, desolate place (some gift) and the man decided to plant trees and plants to turn it into a beautiful place. Everyone thought he was crazy, but for years he and his wife planted trees, grass, shrubs and flowers. Eventually, birds came to the spot and added to its beauty. The island became a showcase and when the man died, these words were inscribed upon his tombstone: "Make the world a bit more beautiful and better because you have been in it."

This man's grandson came to America and became the editor of Ladies' Home Journal. He retired at age 50 and found a place he wanted to beautify just as his grandfather had done. His name: Edward Bok and the place is Mountain Lake Sanctuary (Bok Tower) in Lake Wales, Florida.

It is an extraordinarily beautiful place. It is a place for meditation and appreciation for man's ability to enhance God's creation. It is a peaceful and serene place that brings joy to those who visit. The Boks left the world a prettier place because of their efforts in the natural realm.

What about us? Those of us who are in the "heavenly places," what are we doing to make our world a better place? If you planted some flowers and trees that would be nice, but I'm thinking of higher, nobler work.

We may not be able to do the same amount of work that Paul did, but in our own way and within our abilities, we can plant the seed of the kingdom, the word of God. We can start with our children and then extend ourselves to planting the gospel into the good soil wherever we may find it. The more light there is in the world, the brighter a place it will be.

With all the meanness, hatefulness, rage, and bitterness around us, we can "spruce up the place" with kindness, love, compassion and being Christ-like.

Will the world be a better place because you have graced it with the Christian attributes that abound in your life? Are there some "ugly" tares that need to be rooted up in your life and replaced with the "Rose of Sharon"?

Jesus, Rose of Sharon, bloom within my heart;
Beauties of Thy truth and holiness impart,
That where'er I go my life my shed abroad
Fragrance of the knowledge of the love of God.

Guirey

Watch
LIVE!

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



FAMILY UPDATES

Prayers:

Louis Garrett remains about the same. He is slowly growing weaker and remains unable to do many things for himself. Your prayers are solicited. Say his name to the Lord. Also, please remember **Jan & Dana** as you pray. We are grateful for the updates being channeled through **Will Starks**.

Our prayers continue for **Mechi Hunt's** family in the loss of her father. Also please continue to remember Mechi's twin sister, **Zoila Herring**, as she continues chemo. **Marty's** brother, **Mike Hunt**, also has an interest in our fervent prayers as he continues his treatments.

Cyndi Vanatta, **Phil Shaver's** sister, who lives in Titusville, Florida, is being treated for Stage 4 Lung Cancer. Cyndi's second chemo treatment is April 29th. Side effects tend to be profound for this treatment. Please pray for her comfort and her healing.

W.D. Patrick continues to improve. We are grateful see him bouncing back. Say his name to the Lord as you pray this week.

Peggy Childress had her angiogram on Tuesday of last week. Everything went well. Your prayers for **Peggy & Terry** are appreciated. It was awesome to see Peggy & Terry in our assembly on Sunday: very unexpected, but a welcomed site.

Hill's mother, **Lane Roberts**, is under hospice care at Brookdale, but is able to receive visitors for no more than 30 minutes. She would be happy to see you. Thank you for your prayers.

Pray for those who are confined in care facilities and memory care — **Louis Garrett, Laura Phillips, Jim Risner, Lane Roberts, Dot Summers**. ☐

Daily Prayer List:

Glenda Cavender	Melvin Godette
Laura Phillips	Dot Summers
Charlotte Hagewood	Lane Roberts
Bill Reavis	

Bobby & Hilda Wright are great-grandparents again. They are excited to announce that **Logan & Caroline Chappell** welcomed **Emmett Levi** into the world on Friday. Emmett weighed 9 lbs. 8 oz, and was 21" long.



WEATHERLY UPDATES

Sunday Morning Bible Study will begin at 9:00 — Join us for Mike's live streamed study today as he continues his series entitled **Christ Clashing with Culture**.

Sunday morning will begin at 10. Mike will continue his series entitled, **#OWNIT**. Today's lesson is **I Have Plans for You** and is taken from **Jeremiah 29**.

Sunday Evening "Virtual Devo" on Zoom at 7. We will email a link Sunday. Join in.

Wednesday Bible Study — Mike is will begin his study of **The book of Colossians & Philemon**. We stream at 7 p.m. No public assembly. ☐

Christianity

Adapted

Christianity is not the religion of sorrow and gloom: it is the religion of the morning, and it carries in its heart the happiness of heaven. It lives with the hope of heaven as the driving force of life. Expressed at its heart is a desire to invite others to pursue it's path.

Christianity is not a restraint but an inspiration — not a weight but wings; not subtraction but addition. It brings bloom for faded hearts, rejuvenation for the prematurely old, imagination for the dry, literal mind.

Christianity is not a kill-joy at the feast of life, nor a kind of incarnate "don't": it bristles with great affirmatives, fires the soul with permanent enthusiasms and durable loyalties.

Christianity leaves a trail of light wherever it goes; it can keep you cool under any confusion, bring you up smiling from any depths and utterly banish your fret and worry. It lifts spirits and makes peace, as do all of the children of God.

Christianity brings zest and sparkle to life; it is sunshine on the flowers rather than moonlight on the snow; it is life more abundant; it is leaving the little narrow life behind and leaving it forever.

Christianity invites investigation of it's Head. It is the Harold of Truth. It is the lighthouse along the short. It's the respite for the weary; the hospital of healing. ☐

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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Weatherly Heights
CHURCH OF CHRIST

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TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes	9:00 am
Sunday AM Assembly	10:00 am
Sunday PM Assembly	5:00 pm
Wednesday Classes	7:00 pm

Stay informed and engaged online at
www.weatherlychurch.com

WATCH:

LIVE Sermon archive or
live stream during
all Weatherly services



Weatherly's Shepherds

Tommy Hill	256 883-0010
Will Starks	256 883-5273

Evangelist

Michael W. McLemore 256 698-5941
Email: mmclemore@weatherlychurch.com

Weatherly's Deacons

Phil Furlough	Steve Hagewood
Kirk Hatcher	David Jacks
Hill Roberts	Collis Terry
Bobby Wright	



These are asked to assist in our labor.

Sunday, April 18

Welcome: **Mike McLemore**
Song Leader: **Hill Roberts**
Opening Prayer:
Scripture Reading:

Jeremiah 29

Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
"I Have Plans"

Closing Prayer:

Sunday, April 25

Mike McLemore
Hill Roberts

Matthew 21:33-46

Mike McLemore
Stewards of the Master

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz

CANCELLED

Songs Leader:

Opening Prayer:

Closing Prayer:

Virtual Devotion on ZOOM

Virtual Devotion on ZOOM

Wednesday, April 21

Songs Leader:

Invitation:

Closing Prayer:

Streamed Bible Study

Streamed Bible Study

None

2021 Planning Underway

None

Quarterly Adult Classes

April — June 2020

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

Christ Classing with Culture

Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

The Challenge of Colossians

Mike McLemore

Serving in April

Serving on the Lord's
Table AM
**** Overseer**

Lord's Supper PM

Communion Prep
Building Lockup

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



4-18	Peggy Monroe	4-20	John Stokes
4-21	Charley Carter	4-21	Dianne Dill
4-21	Mechi Hunt	4-23	David Jacks
4-25	Sue Terry		

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