

Weatherly Weekly

December 18, 2022

2022 Edition, Number 51

Losing Your Focus

Michael W. McLemore

The Airbus A320 was flying at 37,000 feet over the Denver, Colorado, area when it last made radio contact, the NTSB said. Northwest Flight 188 had departed San Diego enroute to Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport carrying 144 passengers, two pilots and three flight attendants. Pilots with more than 11,000 and 20,000 hours of flight time respectively over shot their intended destination by more than 150 miles. The reason? They were distracted by the use of their personal laptops in the cockpit – prohibited devices during flight. The pilots lost focus; it could have been tragic.

Losing focus can have disastrous consequences for the child of God also. Danger is everywhere. But, on what should the children of God stay focused?

We are “FOLLOWERS” and following takes focus. Jesus said, “My sheep hear my voice... and they follow me,” *John 10:27*. Paul exhorted, “Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ,” *1 Corinthians 11:1*. The Greek word for “imitator” is

“*mimetes*.” Paul is saying, “Mimic me as I am imitating Christ!” Imitating takes focus.

We are “DISCIPLES,” and discipleship requires focus. Jesus charged, “go make disciples of all nations,” then “teach them,” *Matthew 28:19-20*. Disciples are learners. They need a guide. God’s word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our path, *Psalms 119:105*. Nothing else can do that. Learning God’s word takes focus.

We are “SOJOURNERS.” This world is not our home. The city of God is our home. Going to heaven requires constant focus. By faith Abraham “waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God,” *Hebrews 11:10*. Paul admonished Timothy in *2 Timothy 2:4*, “No one engaged in warfare entangles himself with the affairs of this life, in order that he may please him who enlisted him as a soldier.” Focus on the looming dangers of living in this life. It is a battle. Living the life of a sojourner takes focus. Satan wants only to distract God’s people. Don’t allow him to succeed by losing your focus! ☐

In a Snap

MICHAEL W. MCLEMORE

In many ways our entire country has been turned upside down by the death of Mike Leach, head football coach of Mississippi State University. While many were aware of coach Leach’s quirky nature and his profoundly innovative impact upon college football, most were not. Mike Leach was a phenomenal coach who changed the game forever. His loss will be felt deeply by the sport. Certainly, the death of Mike Leach is a tragedy for his family. They are reeling that his life has ended in a snap. Our collective prayers are for their comfort.

In the days since the passing of coach Leach, I have read and heard dozens of stories related by people who crossed paths with him over the years. Some knew him well. Others were perfect strangers. One story circulated on social media by WVTM 13 (Birmingham) anchor Rick Karle in my mind surpasses them all. This little story should be a lesson for everyone, but especially for every Christian.

Karle reported, “Jeff Tyler of Wetumpka, Alabama, contacted me to tell me a great story.”

Tyler wrote, “Three years ago, I took my 11-year-old son to a Mississippi State game. Jackson wanted to see pre-game warm-ups, so we were practically the first fans in the stadium.

“We took our upper-level seats, and my son asked if he could walk down to the field level seats to watch warm-ups, and I let him. This kid somehow managed to convince a security guard that he was supposed to be on the field. The next thing I saw was my son walking up to Coach Leach and fist bumping him.

“The two started talking, and a few minutes later Coach Leach called over a couple of his players. Jackson plays center on his YMCA football team. Within minutes coach Leach had his centers showing Jackson how to properly snap the football. I was in the upper deck, totally dumbfounded that the head football coach of an SEC team was spending time during pre-game warm-ups showing a boy that he had never met how to snap a football.

My son returned to our upper-deck seats beaming with pride. I had witnessed a memory of a lifetime.”

Jeff Tyler’s story is far from over, and coach Mike Leach’s lesson is even more profound.

“Two years later we went to another game. My son was again in the front row watching warm-ups. A graduate assistant ran over and yelled, ‘Are you Jackson?’ My son said, ‘Yes!’ The graduate assistant said, ‘Coach Leach wants to see you,’ and he took my son out on the field.

“Coach Leach asked my son if he’d been practicing, and then had him do several snaps. Coach told him to keep working on it, gave him a football and sent him on his way. I was in the stands once again dumbfounded that a coach remembered my son’s name, remembered that day, and knew what spending five minutes of his time with a kid could mean.”

This is my favorite Mike Leach moment; not his fast-paced offensive schemes or his quirky stories and quick-witted hilarious responses. It’s the story of his teaching young Jackson Tyler of Wetumpka, Alabama the finer points of the game they both loved when he could’ve been doing what many view as much more important work. In a snap Mike Leach changed the life of a little boy — twice!

It all reminds me of the day another far more well-known man stopped what He was doing and showed His own tender care and love for children by laying His hands upon them, *Matthew 19:13-14*. The disciples of Jesus had rebuked their parents for wanting Jesus’ attention for a moment to simply touch their children. In return Jesus rebuked His own disciples for not grasping both the gravity of that moment and the importance and value of children.

In a snap, Mississippi State football coach, Mike Leach, left this world for the next. He touched thousands of lives in this life, but none more profoundly than one little boy named Jackson Tyler from Wetumpka, Alabama. I hope Jackson’s story and Mike Leach’s lesson will change how we see those moments for us. Jesus’ disciples didn’t “get it,” but I think coach Leach did. I hope we do! ☐

Watch
LIVE!

FAMILY MATTERS

News and Notes of Interest to Weatherly Members



Family Updates

Prayers:

Ciera Elledge, Will & Sarah Starks' granddaughter, did not get the news she would have liked. The tumors are back. Right now she is weighing the medical recommendations to decide what is next. In the meantime her anticipated surgery at Stanford has been indefinitely postponed. Please pray for Ciera and her whole family.

Marissa Hunt is doing great. Her medications have a side effect or two that present minor challenges for her, but so far she seems to be getting better daily. Your prayers are appreciated.

Becky Hill remains on our prayer list as she anticipates her next round of Chemo. We are praying for good days during this intervening period of recovery. Say **Becky & Tommy's** names to the Lord this week.

We are continuing to pray for **Peggy Monroe** who was diagnosed with COVID. We are thankful that she is doing well.

We have several who are fighting seasonal colds and flu. Please keep these in your prayers. So far the symptoms have been minor nagging issues. We pray that will continue to be the case.

Louis Caudle, Wes' mom, is in need of our prayers as she battles through Chemo and its after affects. Your prayers for her are both solicited and appreciated.

Little **M.J. Thompson** was sick on both Sunday and Wednesday last week. We missed her. Also, please continue to pray for her mom, **Lauren**, as her delivery date draws closer.

Zoila Herring, Mechi Hunt's sister, remains in our daily prayers.

Pray for these. Each has their own particular health challenge. — **Peggy Monroe, Bill McCord, Jim Risner, Lane Roberts, Glenda Cavender, Edith Turner, Melvin Godette & Betty Dubose.**

Your prayers for these are much appreciated. **Edith Turner** is doing pretty well considering all that she has been through. Sister **Lane Roberts** keeps pressing forward. **Glenda Cavender** remains about the same. She has good and bad days. **Betty Dubose** and **Jim Risner** keep encouraging all of us with their devotion in spite of challenge. We've all been excited to see **Bill McCord** back. Please especially pray for **Melvin Godette**, whose challenges are many. These are all often mentioned in our announcements, not as mere habit, but our of a deep love and appreciation for their many needs. Keep them in the forefront of your daily petitions to the loving Father.

This Week at Weatherly

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE class meets at 9:30. **Mike McLemore** is continuing his study "What Can I Do?" from the book of Acts. This is a great study. Come be a part.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP follows at 10. **Mike** will continue his series on Luke 2 entitled, **Hope Has Arrived**. Today's lesson is **Losing Jesus** from **Luke 2:41-50**.

SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP begins at 6. **Mike** will lead us in a devotional. Let's all attend.

WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY begins at 7. **Mike** will continue his study of **The Compassionate Christ**. ☐

Answer the Call

Michael W. McLemore

On the night of April 18, 1775, the American patriot, Paul Revere, rode from Boston to Lexington to give warning of the approaching British expedition, which was resisted the next day at Lexington and Concord. This single incident in the life of Paul Revere has preserved his name in the historical annals of our nation's birth. But, what of the men who answered the famous midnight call? Their names are largely unknown to us.

That made me think of the many unnamed servants who have given themselves up to the worthy cause of our Savior, Jesus? Their lives were spent in pursuit of an unending reward.

Inspiration calls every child of God to meet the approaching foe — Satan and his evil band of seducers. In countless numbers men, women and accountable children have answered the call. They are not famous. We don't know their names. Yet, because of their fight of faith, freedom by truth is ours to enjoy.

No. We don't know their names; our names will likely be unknown too. But, while they will be unknown to those who follow, they are known to God. "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are HIS," *2 Tim. 2:19*. "He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels," *Revelation 3:5*. Won't we answer His call to arms? ☐

WEEKLY WALK

Weatherly Weekly



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TIMES OF SERVICES

Sunday Bible Classes 9:30 am
Sunday AM Assembly 10:00 am
Sunday PM Assembly 6:00 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

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Evangelist

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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, December 18

Welcome: **Tommy Hill**
Song Leader: **Hill Roberts**
Opening Prayer: **Marty Hunt**
Lord's Table Lead: **Collis Terry**

Sermon: **Mike McLemore**
Luke 2:41-50
Losing Jesus
Closing Prayer: **Adam Hagewood**

Sunday, December 25

Will Starks
David Jacks
Phil Shaver
Tommy Hill
Luke 2:51-52
Mike McLemore
A Forgotten Town
Will Patrick

Evening Worship

Bible Skillz **Mike McLemore**
Songs Leader: **Bill Thompson**
Opening Prayer: **W.D. Patrick**
Closing Prayer: **Ron Harmon**

Evening Worship

Mike McLemore
David Jacks
Alex Thompson
Wes Caudle

Wednesday, December 21

Songs Leader: **Mel Ambrose**
Invitation: **Mike McLemore**
Closing Prayer: **John Patrick**

Wednesday, December 28

Collis Terry
Mike McLemore
Mel Ambrose

Quarterly Adult Classes

October – December 2022

AUDITORIUM SUNDAY

"What Can I Do?"

Mike McLemore

AUDITORIUM WEDNESDAY

The Compassionate Christ

Mike McLemore

Serving in December

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

**** Phil Furlough (12-4), Bill Thompson (12-11),**
Collis Terry (12-18), Tommy Hill (12-25)

Communion Prep
Building Lockup

TBA

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



12-23 **Charles Hill** **12-26** **Phil Shaver**
12-27 **Searcy Hall** **12-29** **Peggy Coward**
12-29 **Gene Preston**

DECEMBER 18, 2022

