

FRESH NOTES

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ABYSSINIA BAPTIST CHURCH

Christian Fellowship

Is Essential To Spiritual Growth!

We Invite You To Come Fellowship With Us & Be Blessed By The Word!

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Prayers for Children

Bless our children, Lord. As we celebrate their talents, help us to understand their troubles. As we feed their minds and bodies, help us to affirm their hearts and souls.



Awaken us to their heartache. Set your angels about them and throughout them to protect our children from harm. Amen

Prayers for Parents

Almighty and most merciful God, who in Thy infinite goodness hast committed us unto the charge of loving parents, who are to watch over us and provide for all our wants of body and soul, we pray Thee, protect and prolong their life, that we may continue to enjoy their loving care, and strengthen us that as obedient children we may be subject to their will and hold them in love and esteem; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.



IT'S SUMMERTIME WATCH OUT FOR OUR CHILDREN.

KIDS Need Cash Too!

Everyone can use a little extra cash to buy those special things we want. Being a kid, it's not easy to find a job. There are some things kids can do to earn a little extra cash over the summer.

Here's a few ideas from kids like you:

- *Babysitting* is an obvious choice.
- Open a *lemonade stand!* Not only is it fun, you can earn some cash on a hot summer day. Ask Mom or Dad to help you set it up, don't forget to pay them back if they help pay for supplies.
- Walk dogs/care for pets. Lots of people are too busy over summer to take care of their pets. Start your own pet care, *dog-walking* business.
- *Yard work* and *gardening* is another good idea. Offer your services to cut grass, weed gardens and do general yard work for people, seniors especially can use the help in the summer.
- Hold a *car wash!* Get a group of friends together and with parents permission start your own car wash.
- Have a *garage sale.* Clean out your closets, toy chests and basements of all the toys/books you no longer use. You'd be surprised how much stuff you no longer use.
- Check with the local employment agencies to see if they have any listings for youth. Occasionally some organizations and camps are looking for youngsters to help out.

Unfortunately there are laws about kids working so you have to be creative when you are young to earn a little extra cash. Get your parents involved too, they may have some good ideas. They may even be more encouraged to help you out if they see you trying to make your own cash instead of just holding out your hand.

Old Testament

1. Genesis
2. Exodus
3. Leviticus
4. Numbers
5. Deuteronomy
6. Joshua
7. Judges
8. Ruth
9. 1 Samuel
10. 2 Samuel
11. 1 Kings
12. 2 Kings
13. 1 Chronicles
14. 2 Chronicles
15. Ezra
16. Nehemiah
17. Esther
18. Job
19. Psalms
20. Proverbs
21. Ecclesiastes
22. Song of Solomon
23. Isaiah
24. Jeremiah
25. Lamentations
26. Ezekiel
27. Daniel
28. Hosea
29. Joel
30. Amos
31. Obadiah
32. Jonah
33. Micah
34. Nahum
35. Habakkuk
36. Zephaniah
37. Haggai
38. Zechariah
39. Malachi

New Testament

1. Matthew
2. Mark
3. Luke
4. John
5. Acts
6. Romans
7. 1 Corinthians
8. 2 Corinthians
9. Galatians
10. Ephesians
11. Philippians
12. Colossians
13. 1 Thessalonians
14. 2 Thessalonians
15. 1 Timothy
16. 2 Timothy
17. Titus
18. Philemon
19. Hebrews
20. James
21. 1 Peter
22. 2 Peter
23. 1 John
24. 2 John
25. 3 John
26. Jude
27. Revelation

I am an imperfect being,
living in an
imperfect world,
Loved by a perfect God,
Who sees me
as complete in Him!
How can I go wrong!

I am just a Body,
Trying to tell Everybody
About Somebody
Who can Save Anybody!



DARE TO BE DIFFERENT

"Remember the words I spoke to you: 'No servant is greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will persecute you also. If they obeyed my teaching, they will obey yours also.'"
John 15:20

My dad was a pastor, so I got stuck with the label known to every pastor's kid: P.R. But, much to the congregation's disappointment, the title didn't stop me from being my mischievous little self. I'd like to have a \$5 bill for every time somebody came to me and said, "Little Joe, you're the pastor's son. You should be an example." They wanted me to be different, but they didn't understand. I didn't want to be an example! I was only a kid and wanted to have fun with my friends. Nobody wants to be different. We want people to like us, and the safest way to do that is to blend in, to be like them. But following Christ has never been about blending in. Following Him means to be like Him, to respond to life and relate to people the way He would. Inevitably, there are times that doing that makes you different. Granted, it can be risky and uncomfortable to be different. But that's what being a follower of Jesus is all about—bringing the difference of your King to bear on the territory you've been assigned to: your home, your office, your friendships.

We need to keep in mind that Jesus never promised that following Him would be a cakewalk. In fact, He made it clear that following Him would often create tension in a world that is going in the opposite direction. Just before His death, He spoke candidly to His disciples: *"If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first if they persecuted me, they will persecute you."*

Just a few months ago, our newspapers headlined the story of Abdul Rahman, the Afghani who accepted Jesus Christ as his Savior and faced the outrage of Muslim clerics in the courtrooms of Afghanistan. Although his conversion was considered a capital crime and his life was at risk, his faith stood the test. Right now while we are talking about this, thousands of believers in places like China, the Sudan, and Vietnam, are making the point that Jesus is more important than personal peace and comfort. But for those of us who don't live in life-threatening environments, being a fully committed follower brings its own kinds of trouble. It may be the threat of being cut out of the group and losing a promotion when the boss takes you and your colleagues out to dinner and then takes everyone but you to the strip club for an after dinner drink. Or when your evolution-promoting biology professor scoffs at your stance on creation and gives

you a lower grade on your paper. Forgiving a serious offense may have other fellow travelers thinking that you are the "village idiot." Refusing to enter a gossip conversation and declining opportunities to speak in unloving ways about others may even cost you something with fellow believers...Sad but true! Today, you will no doubt have opportunities to be different—to go against the flow. Don't be intimidated. Jesus said, *"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world"* (John 16:33). What an interesting thought. Bailing on Jesus makes me a loser, but when I stick with Him through thick and thin, I ultimately win! In retrospect, I can now see how my antics as a P.R. reflected poorly on my Dad. It's motivating to remember that our non-Jesus attitudes and actions not only leave us on the losing side but also end up reflecting poorly on Jesus.

YOUR JOURNEY

- ✦ Read *John 15:18-27*. In what ways have you dared to be different for Christ and felt the tension?
- ✦ When was the last time you chose to blend in with the crowd rather than follow Christ? Why did you cave to the pressure? What can you do to stand for Jesus the next time you are in that situation? Making a plan for the next opportunity to follow Jesus is important. Be prepared!
- ✦ What does it mean personally for you that Jesus said, *"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me"*? Check out the whole story in *Luke 9:21-26*. Be specific, honest, and courageous in your answer.
- ✦ When was the last time you realized that in this upside-down world, it is followers who are willing to go into the face of adversity for Jesus who are truly blessed? (Don't miss *Matthew 5:10-12*)
- ✦ Ask that God would continue to turn Satan's attacks into victories, and that followers of Jesus around the globe would boldly stand for Him and rise to the challenge of being different for His sake.

Go ahead. Make a difference by daring to be different!

SCHOOL OF HARD KNOCKS

It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes. —Psalm 119:71

During the Depression era in the 1930s, *Little Orphan Annie* was a popular comic strip and radio program. Years later, it was the basis for the musical comedy

Annie. The opening scene shows Annie in an orphanage where the girls are forced to clean and scrub in the middle of the night. Expressing their feelings of helplessness, they sing: *"It's the hard-knock life for us. No one cares for you a smidge when you are in an orphanage. It's the hard-knock life."*

When we talk about *"the school of hard knocks,"* we are referring to the difficult experiences in life that have instructed us. Although it is part of human nature to avoid pain, the believer can learn from painful circumstances.

The psalmist wisely said, *"It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes"* (119:71). His particular heartache was the slander of his good name (vv.69-70). Yet even in this, the psalmist realized that his circumstances could teach him to value the Word of God. What problem are you facing today? Hand it over to the Lord in prayer. Then meditate on Scripture and thank God for the life lessons you are about to learn. The Lord of heaven and earth is sovereign—even over "the school of hard knocks."

God is still on the throne, He never forsaketh His own; His promise is true, He will not forget you, God is still on the throne.

**Our afflictions are not designed to break us
But to bring us to God.**

Psalm 119:65-72

"Do good to your servant according to your word, O LORD. Teach me knowledge and good judgment, for I believe in your commands. Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I obey your word. You are good, and what you do is good; teach me your decrees. Though the arrogant have smeared me with lies, I keep your precepts with all my heart. Their hearts are callous and unfeeling, but I delight in your law. It was good for me to be afflicted so that I might learn your decrees. The law from your mouth is more precious to me than thousands of pieces of silver and gold."

**CONGRATULATIONS
2007 GRADUATES!**

**Happy Birthday
JUNE Saints!**

