

SILENCE

Habakkuk 2:20

But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him.

People like noise. Go into a restaurant, what do you hear? Besides the normal conversation, you hear music playing over a speaker system. When I go to those places, I have to ask to be seated in a "quiet corner." Most of the time there isn't one.

At a big time sporting event, people want a lot of noise and commotion. Blow a lot of smoke and have a lot of music blaring at a volume that damages one's hearing to create a great "game day experience." We have to create an experience, get people "pumped up," make a lot of noise.

It is a very small step to move from entertainment to worship. You hear people talk about a great "worship experience." They want a lot of noise and if it's quiet, it really hasn't "felt like worship." I'm convinced that this is a carryover from entertainment.

Just so you will know I am aware that Psalm 100:1 says "make a joyful noise unto the Lord." The Bible also says "The Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him." "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10).

Perhaps one reason why some want to sing during the Lord's Supper or the offering is because we're uncomfortable with silence. Whatever happened to the need to meditate, to reflect, to be quiet and listen to God. He still dwells in His holy temple and we still need to be at rest and know that He alone is God.

--Ron Harper--

From The Ground Up

It was Labor Day 2015. Mom was in the chair recovering from her recent surgery, and Dad was in his chair watching old westerns on TV. Needless to say, we weren't the liveliest bunch on the planet. I was sitting at my computer watching the National Finals Rodeo team roping championship (you have your sports, I have mine) when I got the bright idea to build my very own roping dummy. Basically, I was going to build a wooden calf so I could practice my own roping skills. Maybe I should have consulted Aaron, Moses' brother, before building this calf, but I did not. I drew up some plans, got the materials, and headed to the barn to construct my masterpiece. While it's still not completely finished, it is what I like to call "a work in progress."

There is a building project that happens every day of our lives. It is the building of our faith and love for the church and for God. All too often, we have building projects that just stop due to bad weather or lack of materials or even the color of the brick. Perhaps in our own spiritual building, we can take these challenges and continue in construction.

Challenge no. 1: Identify the Problem. Too often we want to blame other people for our spiritual downfall. "The preacher isn't entertaining." Or my personal favorite, "Church people are so fake." Before we talk about how bad others are, Jesus says to fix ourselves first (Matt. 7:1-4). As we search our hearts, we need to be honest with ourselves and take action where it is needed.

Challenge no. 2: Enlist the help of others. When Nehemiah needed to go back and rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, he didn't do it alone (Neh. 2:17). What makes us think we can do the Christian walk on our own? Galatians 6:1-5 tells us that we should carry each other's burdens and to restore a wrongdoer with a gentle spirit. The church is a hospital for sinners, not a museum for saints.

Much like my roping dummy, our lives are a work in progress. Our perfect spiritual fortress will not pop up overnight but will take countless hours of hard work and patience to build. So what is hindering our building project and what are we going to do to fix it?

Joshua Houston

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

SICK

Bessie Bowman, Wilburn Laws, Gerald Wiseman
Ted Patterson – neck surgery

TAKING TREATMENTS

Lois Arnold, Carolyn Thomas, Janneil Brown

SHUT INS

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry,
Oleta Bullard

PRAYER REQUEST:

Shirley Bibb, Clyde & Opal Jones, Dan & Lorene
Stephens, Wayne Mobbs, Lorene Maddox,
Imogene Bozeman, Martha DeVore, Doris Mobbs,
Selma Boyd, Wilburn Laws, Larry & Geri Melton,
Betty Shoemaker, Rosalie Phifer, Janneil Brown,
Jeanie Young, Bessie Bowman, Lynda Houston,
Gladys Davidson, Mabel Robertson, Gerald
Wiseman, Ted Patterson

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

*MEMBERS

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*, Opal Jones*

DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA: Jean Nickens*

NHC: Sue Reeves*, Lizzie Bush, Geri Melton*

MORNING POINTE: (Brentwood) Betty Shoemaker

STONES RIVER MANOR: Edna Vance*, Virgie
Leonard*, Margaret Davidson*, Jeweldean Hall*,
Laura Wiser*, Lillian Whitworth, Louise McKnight*,
Martha DeVore

MILITARY

Please keep **Tony Berry** in your prayers, while
he is stationed in California at Camp
Pendleton.

BUILDING FUND

We have received donations to the
Building Fund in memory of **Ralph Gilbert**
by the following:

*Ron Meers

*John H. Jones

*Greg & Machele Ferran

*Pinnacle Financial Partners

NEWS & NOTES

We extend sympathy to the family of
Sue Davidson. Her funeral was
Thursday, September 10th at Woodfin's.
Sue was Janice Ham and Jim
Davidson's aunt.

Pictures for the pictorial directory will
be in the gym. There is a sign-up sheet
on the counter. For your dress
planning, our back drop will be a
medium gray color. Please see Rick
Corum or Larry Benson if you have any
questions.

Tennessee Children's Home fall food
and supply drive has begun; please
have all donated items at the school
by Thursday, September 24th. See Mike
Bowman if you have any questions or
would like to make a fund donation.

Christmas boxes for the Nicaragua
Christian School are due Thursday,
October 1st. See Fred Rogers for any
questions.

tbh2015 "Youth Living in Today's World"
will be on Saturday, October 17th. See
Joshua Houston if you want to go.

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(615) 893-8212

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2611 B Salem Creek Drive
Murfreesboro, TN 37128

Email:
office@salemcreekcoc.org

We're on the web!
www.mdcoc.net

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Currently meeting at
 Middle Tennessee Christian School
 100 E. MTCS Rd.
 Murfreesboro, TN 37130

Sunday		
Morning Worship		8:30 am
Bible Classes		9:45 am
Evening Worship		5:30 pm
Wednesday		
Morning Bible Class		10:00 am
Evening Bible Classes		6:30 pm

ELDERS

B.K. Ham
 Jim Hatfield
 Jon Holland
 Andy Mitchell
 Randall Phifer
 Fred Rogers
 Keith Short

MINISTER

Ron Harper

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

DEACONS

Larry Benson	Andy Melton
Michael Bowman	Brian Melton
Craig Buckner	Alan Pepper
Bob Hoover	Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

September 6, 2015

Sunday	AM worship	157
	Bible classes	133
	PM worship	128
	Contribution	\$6,033.00

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	137
Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)	13

GREETERS

Please be at the door 15
 minutes prior to services!



September 13

Louise Smithson
 Dean Thompson

September 20

Dorothy Stroop
 Steve & Martha Hill

To Our Honored Guests...

We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back to Middle Tennessee Christian School while our new building is under construction.

We were honored by your presence!