

## **THOSE POOR MACEDONIANS**

2 Corinthians 8:3, 4

*For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, begins us with much urging for the favor of participating in the support of the saints.*

I can just hear the comments as the Macedonian Christians left the Sunday assembly. "That Paul, he's always begging for more money." "Yes, he never shows up around here unless he wants something."

In reality the Christians in Macedonia were not like that. But before we examine their attitude, think about their situation. 2 Corinthians 8:2 refers to their "deep poverty." How poor were they? One can't put any number to how little they had. The Bible simply notes of "deep poverty."

Their attitude is also important; "abundance of joy" describes their hearts. Though the word "generosity" is not used in the first five verses of this chapter, it certainly applies. They gave "beyond their ability."

The key to their generosity is found in verse 5; "they first gave themselves and to the Lord and to us by the will of God." God had given His all to them, they owed their all to Him. How much is too much to give to God? Can you imagine God saying "I've given them all I can give?"

No, you wouldn't hear the poor Macedonians saying "Paul is always begging for money." Quite the opposite. Paul wrote that they were "begging us with much urging for the favor of participating in the support of the saints." When is the last time I have done that?

**--Ron Harper--**

## ***Things I Wish...Baby Boomers and Generation X Knew***

**“I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.” 1 Corinthians 1:10**

Sometimes, you have to risk people liking you to express Biblical truth. For the past three weeks, I have received emails, calls, texts, etc. expressing how much “we needed those articles,” especially those addressing our young people. Well, it is my opinion that we need this one also. I say these things in love and respect for those older than me; however, here are some things I (and the Lord) wish the older generations knew.

1) It's not all the millennial's fault. We are dividing the body of Christ every single day by being so petty with blame. Kids aren't staying in the church, so we blame the millennials. Kids have no respect for God, so we blame millennials. Kids are consumed with technology and social media while losing the ability to talk face to face, so we blame millennials. By playing this blame game, we create a division in the church, thus dividing the Lord's body! Jesus prayed for unity (John 17:20-21) and said that “a kingdom divided cannot stand.”

2) Don't be afraid to try something new. One of the most dangerous things a congregation can say is, “We've never done that before.” When Jesus walked the Earth, he introduced ideas and commandments that had never been considered by the people of his day (read the Sermon on the Mount). I'm not saying we should blindly follow every new idea that comes along, but we should not be afraid to try new things, so long as they are scriptural and beneficial.

3) Spend time with those who are younger. The more I look at our congregations in America, the more I see generational gaps. Each generation thinks they are the best and refuses to listen to or spend time learning from each other. Titus 2 tells us that older women are to teach younger women how to “love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands.” All it takes is an interest in someone to build a relationship. Our young people can learn a lot from those older, and believe it or not, those who are older can also learn from the younger.

All these points could be summed up in one word: unity. We have lost our unity in the Lord's church by creating generational gaps. It breaks my heart to see the hatred one generation has for the other. Remember, we are all people and if we are in Christ, we are brothers and sisters. Let's not forget that.

Grace and peace,  
Joshua Houston

### **PRAYER REQUEST:**

Shirley Bibb, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Wayne Mobbs, Marie Fleming, Lorene Maddox, Selma Boyd, Oleta Bullard, Mabel Robertson, Janneil Brown, Sue Reeves, Nora Fann, Louise Smithson, Louise McKnight, Peggy Gilbert, Bessie Bowman, Narene Davidson, Naoma Woodcock

### **SHUT INS:**

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard

### **NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:**

#### **\*MEMBERS**

**ADAMS PLACE:** Nora Fann\*, Nell Jernigan\*

**DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA:** Jean Nickens\*

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

**STONES RIVER MANOR:** Margaret Davidson\*, Jeweldean Hall\*, Virgie Leonard\*, Ernestine Taylor\*, Laura Wiser\*, Lillian Whitworth, Edna Vance\*

### **MILITARY:**

Tony Berry

We have received donations to the Food Box Program in memory of **Bob Hoover** by the following:

**\*Patricia & Phillip Johnson, Sr.**

### **NEWS & NOTES**

- We extend sympathy to the family of **Lois Arnold**. She was a longtime member of Minerva Drive and Salem Creek. By request of her family a private funeral service and burial was held Tuesday, September 27<sup>th</sup>. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers.
- **Gospel Meeting** – October 2-5<sup>th</sup> at Allisona church of Christ. Speakers: John & Joshua Houston. More information posted on bulletin board in the foyer.
- **Teachers Appreciation Dinner** Saturday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm, at the church building. If you plan to attend please sign the sign-up sheet in the foyer.
- **Visitation Team 1** will meet on Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup>.
- Our **Fall Festival** will be on Saturday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at 3 pm. Games, fellowship, fun and a BBQ Dinner at 6 pm., after dark, trunk or treat for the children. If you would like to help with this event, please see Cindy Phifer. A sign-up sheet is in the foyer for side dishes, drinks and desserts.
- **Middle Tennessee Christian School** will host the 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Steak Dinner Fundraiser Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm. For tickets or sponsorship information, please contact Beth Hancock at 615-893-0601 or visit [mtcscougars.org](http://mtcscougars.org)

**\*check out the bulletin board for activities and weekly updates.**

Salem Creek church of Christ  
 2525 Salem Creek Drive  
 Murfreesboro, TN 37128

Phone: (615) 893-7532

P. O. Box 332067  
 Murfreesboro, TN 37133

Email:  
[office@salemcreekcoc.org](mailto:office@salemcreekcoc.org)

We're on the web!  
[www.salemcreekcoc.org](http://www.salemcreekcoc.org)

## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday  
 Morning Worship 9:00 am  
 Bible Classes 10:15 am  
 Evening Worship 5:30 pm

Wednesday  
 Ladies Morning Bible Class (Sept-May) 10:00 am  
 Evening Bible Classes 6:30 pm

### ELDERS

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

### MINISTER

Ron Harper

### ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

### DEACONS

Rick Acklin Rick Corum  
 Larry Benson Andy Melton  
 Michael Bowman Brian Melton  
 Craig Buckner Alan Pepper  
 Joe Byars Wendell Wilson

### FOR THE RECORD

*September 25, 2016*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>AM worship</b>	<b>210</b>
	<b>Bible classes</b>	<b>136</b>
	<b>PM worship</b>	<b>143</b>
	<b>Contribution</b>	<b>\$4,860.00</b>

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>PM Bible classes</b>	<b>150</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)</b>	<b>16</b>

\*When county schools are closed due to inclement weather A.M. ladies class will be cancelled\*

### *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 as often as you have opportunity!*

*We were honored by your presence!*

### GREETERS

*Please be at the door  
 15 minutes prior to services!*

#### October 2

Andy & Lisa Mitchell

#### October 9

Jeff & Karen Milstead

