



America's Heartland

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A businessman was walking along one day when he noticed a little boy with a box full of squirming little puppies. A sign read: "ATHEIST PUPPIES FOR SALE. \$10 EACH."

The next day, that businessman saw the same little boy back at the same place. This time the sign read: "CHRISTIAN PUPPIES FOR SALE. \$10 EACH."

The businessman walked over and asked, "Aren't those the same puppies you were trying to sell yesterday?"

Little Boy calls puppies 'Christians' when they open their eyes

"Yes, sir," the little boy said. "Well, yesterday, you called them atheist puppies, and today you're calling them Christian puppies. What changed?"

"Well, sir," the little boy said, "now they have their eyes open."

I can think of no better way to define a Christian than as someone who has opened his or her eyes to the truth of the Gospel. You may recall that Jesus once asked a very unusual question: How is it that you have eyes but yet you can't see? Lots of people in the world seem to be blind to spiritual matters. They're unable to see that Jesus is our Redeemer.

The Bible tells us that people who have had their eyes open are the ones who should be leading others into the light of Christ. But often it's the ones who are blind to the Gospel who go about trying to lead others farther into darkness.

Perhaps you've noticed the very vocal atheists who do all in their power to convince oth-

ers that Christianity is a farce. That's nothing new. The Pharisees of the New Testament did everything within their power to discredit Jesus in their day, too. Jesus said, "Let them alone: They be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch" (Matthew 15:14).

That's quite the word picture that Jesus painted. It's intended to wake us up to the importance of opening our spiritual eyes.

Anyone who has ever raised a litter of pups knows that they're born with their eyes closed and that they remain closed until they're about three weeks old.

There comes a point in their lives when they open their eyes.

Our great hope for all non-believers is that there will come a point in their lives when they open their eyes spiritually.

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HARGETT ELEMENTARY 7TH GRADE CLASS (1960-61)

(Estill County High School Senior Class of 1966, celebrating 55th anniversary in 2021)

ROW 1: Loretta Dawes Witt (20 Apr 1948 - 17 Jul 2004), Nancy Patrick Townsend, Coleman Covey, Jill Karen Walling Fortner (7 Dec 1948 - 10 Feb 1994), Charon J. Barnett, Gary Covey.

ROW 2: Elizabeth Frances "Birdie" Abner Osborne (12 Jun 1947 - 6 Aug 2019), Elois Clay Rice Murphy (11 Sep 1948 - 25 Jul 2003), Thomas "Toady" Abner (8 Sep 1945 - 15 Aug 2011), Earl Jordon, Brenda Allen Stone Thomas (16 Sep 1948 - 13 Apr 2002), Kathleen Stone Puckett, Ruby Jean Barnes Napier, Nannie Faye Tipton.

ROW 3: Billy Seales (Aug 20 1948 - Feb 24 2014), Gary D. Tipton, Edward Russell Thomas, Betty Jo Rader (B. Jodi Breden), John Wilson, Michael Lee Barnes (31 Oct 1948 - 10 Jun 2020), Russell Stamper, Kenneth Murrell Wilson.

ROW 4: Arleen Tuttle Hall, Robert W. Puckett, James A. Richardson, Dessie M. Gordon Isaacs, Nelson Vanderpool, Rachel Crowe, Clyde Young Jr., Roger Joe Freeman (3 Nov 1948 - 21 May 2018), Patricia Joyce Freeman Tipton.

There were others that attended Hargett with this class in other years and are not pictured. Dillard Tipton was the teacher in the 7th grade.

Our Soldiers' Mission

Author: Frieda Richardson Holliman

I am wandering so far from home; wondering if I will make it back to your arms again. This war seems forever, and pain gets harder to bear; and our mission is greater than before.

Have you forgotten, it will be one of your friends? Our young men and women who have fallen today were taken so far away. Soldiers they are, with honor they fight for our cause; they stood so strong, so very long for you and I to be free at home.

Have you forgotten these soldiers' mission. Each night I kneel to pray, I'm wandering if I'll make it back to your arms again, Mom and Dad. I don't know where this great mission will take us, we're never alone, only far from home.

Moms, dads, brothers and sisters, and that's not all; one nation under God, we all stand and still some must fall. Praying together, we'll take our stand, hand to hand. We'll go through our great land, serving for our country and flag.

Fighting gets harder, and pain we must bear. Don't forget these names, they call great men and women who have served proudly for us all. This mission is sometimes hard to understand; just pray for peace throughout our land.

On foreign soil I stand today. These old army

boots are beginning to get worn and torn; and my feet and legs packed me many miles in this mission. I'll try to make you proud and do my best to make a difference.

Sometimes the war brings many tears, fears and heartaches and friendships. We strive for perfection as I wonder so far from home. Have you forgotten one name today? Each night I pray. You and I know, it might be your child's name they'll say.

Hold my hand, don't forget, we stand together, not alone. Hand in hand, one nation under God, with each soldier's mission. We honor all our soldiers and pray daily they all soon will be back in our arms again.

God bless each one of you. We love you and support you. You're never alone with each soldier's mission. God, we proudly take our stand.

This is a tribute to all our soldiers. They are our true heroes; and to our fallen heroes, you're never forgotten. They gave the very best, they gave their self for this great country and our flag; good old Red, White and Blue, it flies for you.

When you celebrate the 4th of July with fireworks, flags and family get-togethers, take time out, remember our freedom and the price that was paid. It didn't come cheap. So many gave, fought, and died. So give honor and thanks before we celebrate. God bless your sacrifice, should never be forgotten. (Amen) Happy 4th of July, Happy Independence Day. Pray for our country and God bless USA.

Five Great Freedoms

Sunday, July 5th, 2020 Morning Message
Bro. Warren Rogers, Ivory Hill Baptist Church

Read Romans 8:1-10

We in America, enjoy many types of freedoms today -- political, financial, from illness and everyday problems, because of the sacrifices of our forefathers.

In Romans, chapter 8, Paul stresses five freedoms available to everyone:

#1 The freedom from the fear of spiritual failure -- Romans 8:1-2, "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. ²For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

A. Living after the flesh submits a person to sin.

B. Living in the spirit gives us freedom from the tyranny of the flesh.

#2 Freedom from the fear of God -- Romans 8:12-15, "Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh. ¹³For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. ¹⁴For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. ¹⁵For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

A. When a person is filled with the spirit, they are set free from the fear of the Heavenly Father.

B. Abba, Father. This term speaks of a warm, loving relationship. How can we fear a father with whom we have this type of feeling?

#3 Freedom of prayer -- Romans 8:26-27, "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

A. Praying is a real problem for some people. They are afraid they won't get the words right. They have heard some Old Prayer Warrior pray, and they think that they will have to sound like that. If you have that problem, just remember that the Old Prayer Warrior has had lots of practice. Don't worry about how it sounds, for it sounds like love to Jesus' ear, no matter what you say, as long as you are sincere.

B. When we pray, we have Jesus to intercede for us.

C. Freedom in prayer helps us to have a deeper relationship with God.

#4 Freedom from fear of circumstances -- Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

A. Life is not an easy journey. In **John 16:33,** Jesus said, "In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

B. We know God has the final say in everything. This frees us from things beyond our control.

#5 Freedom from the fear of failing -- Romans 8:35-39, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. ³⁷Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. ³⁸For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, ³⁹Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

A. This final freedom assures us of our personal relationship with our Heavenly Father. Sad to say that some Christians live in a petrified state of mind. They are afraid they will do something wrong and God will take their names out of the Book of Life. We are all just sinners, saved by the grace of God. We are not perfect, but we have a loving Father who is just, to forgive us our sins if we bring them before Him in prayer (**1 John 1:9 -- If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness**). A spirit-filled Christian lives in absolute confidence in his relationship with the Lord.

B. Like Paul, we can face life with assurance -- **Philippians 4:13,** "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

If God is calling you to do something, he will never let you down. Just trust in Him and you will never fail.

Friends, if you have doubts or don't feel secure in your relationship with Christ and you want to talk to me, call (606) 481-0444.

Until next week, may God bless you, is my prayer.

Bro. Warren

You are invited to Ivory Hill's Sunday morning service each week at 11:00 a.m. You may wear a mask and enjoy in-person service in the sanctuary or you can enjoy the drive-up service from the parking lot listening to the radio on FM 90.1