

THE CHAMPIONS SPIRIT

It's Not Magic!



The battle field was strewn with bodies as about four thousand men lay dead! The defeat was devastating. The leaders of the defeated nation were posing that oft-asked question, “Why?”

From the story, found in 1 Samuel 4, it seems that almost with the same breath as “why” came the leaders’ choice of a remedy. Even though they were the leaders of the nation of Israel, even though they would have known by heart all the stories of the Lord’s deliverance of His people, evidently, they didn’t think about calling on Him, seeking His favor or requesting His aid. Instead, in their own human reasoning, they said, “Let us take to ourselves from Shiloh the ark of the covenant of the Lord, that it may come among us and deliver us from the power of our enemies” (4:3). Instead of seeking the Lord...they sought what they thought might serve their purpose—the ark of the covenant. Even though it was a holy object...still, that is what it was—an object. Israel’s elders missed the point—the power is of God—and of course, they lost the battle!

Sometimes I think we might have the same attitude as those Israelites of old. Sometimes, we attribute power to objects rather than to God. For example, there are some who attribute power to...

Attendance. Some believe that as long as they are “here” (they might not actually be in worship or with other saints in Bible study, but are in the building), then they feel like God is on their side and everything will be alright. Guess what? It’s not. True worship “in spirit and truth” is required (John 4:24)! Attendance, in and of itself, is not magic!

Baptism. Some think that all one has to do is “get baptized” and that alone is enough to win the victory. Just as long as you complete that step (with no regard to the fact that true faith, a repenting heart, and a mouth willing to confess Jesus as Lord are mandatory in preparation for baptism to be genuine. Baptism, in and of itself...is not magic!

The Lord’s Supper. Some think that as long as they come and “take communion” they can check off their requirement for the week. (A preacher once received a call asking to know the exact time for the communion, so they could come just prior to, and leave immediately after it.) The Supper was never intended to be a “check list object.” Instead, it is a time for reflection on the sacrifice of Christ on the cross, a time for mediation on self, and a time for true “communion”—with the Lord and with others! The Lord’s Supper, in and of itself...is not magic!

There are other things we could include, but you get the idea. Are we seeking to find our spiritual victory in some mere object...or from the King of Kings and Lord of Lords? Focusing on any thing rather than the Lord is a fatal mistake—IT ISN’T MAGIC! —Larry

Family Matters

Guests, we are so thankful that you chose to be with us today! Please complete the information in the attendance notebook that will be passed down the aisle at the close of this morning’s service. We hope that you will stay after this morning’s service and enjoy a complimentary meal with our *Family Circle* #7!

It was wonderful to welcome Tony Brown home from Afghanistan! We appreciate your ser-

vice, Tony, and thank God for your safe return to us! Tuesday night is this year’s Closing Ceremony for *Little Champs*, our Mother’s Day Out program. I encourage you to come and witness the impact of this program on our beautiful students and their parents.

Next Sunday is Senior Day at Champions! You can imagine with 16 seniors it will be a very

big day indeed! For those wishing to share, a money bowl will be on the table in the foyer. The money will be divided equally among our seniors.

Parting Thought: The peace Jesus promises isn’t a lack of all conflict but true confidence in the One who will win the ultimate victory.

HAVE A BLESSED WEEK!

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IN THIS ISSUE

<i>It's Not Magic!</i>	1
<i>Family Matters</i>	1
<i>Reed All About It</i>	2
<i>Josh's Journal</i>	2
<i>John's Jogs</i>	2
<i>Family News</i>	3
<i>Calendar of Events</i>	3
<i>Prayers & Notes</i>	4

Reed All About It: Close to the Edge

I did some more fishing this past weekend. The weather was so nice I decided to fish from my kayak for an afternoon. Kayak fishing is a lot of fun as well as great exercise. One element of this type of fishing is it brings you much closer to the water and everything that is in the water.

If you spend time in the outdoors you are aware that spring time is snake season. This year snake season seems even more amplified by the extreme wet weather. Encountering snakes while fishing is nothing new. When fishing from my boat I don't think much about snakes, even the poisonous water moccasins that swim by the boat. The reason for my lack of concern is not because of my inherent bravery; my casual attitude comes from the fact that my boat is high above the water and a snake would have a difficult time climbing into my boat.

Due to the small size of the kayak, I was able to paddle up creeks much farther than in my boat. Suddenly I came upon at least a dozen snakes I identified as water moccasins that were swimming around my kayak. The impact was profound as I was in proximity to the water and

could see these snakes up close and personal. It occurred to me these snakes could join me in my kayak at any time. I suddenly had an epiphany that I was too close. I slowly began to put some distance between myself and the snakes.

Sin can be like this too and can present a challenging dilemma for Christians. Like my snake encounter, our initial reaction may be to separate ourselves from sin. In many cases this is the proper course of action, especially when dealing with a sin that makes up our inherent life struggle. As followers of Christ we are taught to be in the world and to spread the gospel to sinners. At times this command charges us to get in close to sin. We clearly should not run and hide from the world, so here are a couple of ideas to help us prepare to do battle against Satan.

Constantly develop faith – this is done through study, prayer, worship, and fellowship.

Plan ahead of time for how to deal with temptation – we know our weaknesses so

developing a plan of action to avoid certain sins seems prudent.

Pray constantly – ask God for strength in overcoming temptation.

Fellowship – don't neglect getting energized from your fellow Christians.

Connect with the Holy Spirit – learn how to tap into the power of the Comforter.

We learn in Ephesians to put on the full armor of God in order to be ready to do battle with Satan. The items mentioned above help us get our armor on and ready for battle.

Ephesians 6:10-11 NASB

¹⁰ Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. ¹¹ Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

Is your full armor in its proper place in order to face the inevitable battle with Satan and sin? Blessings,
Alan

Josh's Journal: 3rd-5th Grade Devotional — VBS Planning Meeting

**3rd-5th Grade Devotional
Today
@ 4:30 pm
@ Josh & Kimberly's
Home**



Fellowship Room - Pizza Provided

John's Jogs: Naomi and Ruth #4 (final)

THE MARRIAGE, BIRTH AND CONCLUSION: The scene between Boaz and the nearer kinsman gives a quaint picture of this ancient custom, and also of the high value placed upon keeping a plot of ground in the same family. Because there were no men left to farm the land that had belonged to her husband and sons, Naomi was prepared to sell it.

The first option to buy it fell to the next of kin, this same relative. When Boaz told him of his opportunity, he was willing to take the land, but backed out when he learned that Ruth came with it. Then, as was the custom, the next of kin took off his sandal and gave it to Boaz, as a sign of his refusal. The way was clear for Boaz to announce to the assembled elders that he would take both the land and Ruth.

So, with the blessing of the people, Boaz took Ruth to be his wife. She bore him a son, Obed, who became the grandfather of King David.

CONCLUSION: In one of the final scenes of the book Naomi holds her grandson on her lap and cares for him. The women of the village praise Ruth as showing more love toward Naomi than would seven sons. (The number 7 is symbolic of perfection to the Jews.) These same women called the child Naomi's "RESTORER OF LIFE."

A thousand years later JESUS a descendant of Obed, was born in Bethlehem; He is described as one who gives: "LIFE FOR ALL MEN." (Romans 5:18). Matthew's genealogy of Jesus lists only four women and RUTH is one of them. Jews today still honor Ruth by rereading her story during the annual "Feast of

Weeks" that marks the end of grain harvest.

Various reasons are given for why the story was written: 1) To trace the lineage of David. 2) To allow future generations to learn from the inspiring example of the love Ruth had for Naomi. 3) To show that there was non-Jewish heritage in both David and Jesus. 4) I personally believe it was to show the heritage of Jesus.

Whatever the reason for its writing, because of the love, loyalty and commitment Ruth had, without ever knowing it, she mothered a host of kings and ultimately the King of Kings, the Savior of the world. A JUST REWARD FOR A FAITHFUL FRIEND!! Ruth and Naomi were both Great Mothers. Ruth in letting her (Light shine) became the Mother of kings and ultimately the Mother of King of Kings.

THE CHAMPIONS SPIRIT

EVENTS AND NEWS

Our 2016 Champions Family Graduates Senior Day Sunday, May 22nd

Trace Chappell	Eddie Tonche	Ruth Miller
Daniel Cobb	Ngozi Iwunze	Samantha O'Brien
Nick Eley	Summer Holt	Jake Rickman
Tyler Eley	Kaitlyn Jones	Vanessa Rivera
Kate Hicks	Elizabeth Killough	Micah Shaw
		Rachel Zanonne

Please join us as we honor our Champions Seniors

- Bible Class - 9 am
- Worship - 10 am
- Presentation of Bibles and Charge - Britt Jones and Elders
- Lunch - immediately following worship
- Videos - Will be shown in family center **during lunch**

Little Champs Mother's Day Out Closing Program Help Needed

On Tuesday, May 17th, Lisa Killough needs two volunteers to help set-up and clean-up for the Little Champs closing program. You need to arrive by 6:15 p.m. Please contact Lisa Killough if you can assist.

Men's Night Out Thursday, May 19th @ 6:30 p.m.

My Pizzeria
9222 Louetta Rd., Spring, TX 77379
832-717-3777

Please sign the list posted on the North Bulletin Board.
Contact: Wes Arnold

Wednesday Night Meal May 18th

Menu: : Lasagna, Green beans,
Salad, Rolls, Lemon cake

Adults: \$5, Children and up, \$3: Two and under: Free. Please place number to attend in the attendance book today.

Family Circle #7 Meal Today!

Leaders: Penn and Patricia Pennington

We extend an invitation to all our visitors to enjoy a meal with FC#7 today immediately following morning service in our Family Center Building.



REFUGE JULY 18-20
9-11:30 am
Ages 3-5th Grade
Register at: www.championschurch.org

Young at Heart Trip Thursday, June 9th

Depart on Precinct 4 Bus at 9AM
Museum of Natural Science

Featuring the Faberge Jeweled collection, including the Faberge Eggs and some of the Ramona Jewels. Lunch at China Garden Restaurant after the tour. The cost is \$13.00, plus lunch. A head count is needed A.S.A.P. Please sign the list posted on the North Bulletin Board. Contact: John Dickenson, with questions.

Church Calendar May 2016

15 3rd-5th Grades Devo at Vires Home
15 VBS Planning Meeting
19 Men's Night Out
22 Senior Day

June

5 Fairfield Church of Christ Homecoming
9 Young at Heart Trip

July

18-20 VBS

Youth Calendar May and June 2016

May 15 VBS Planning Meeting
May 21 Pool Party at Hughes Home
May 22 Senior Day
May 24 OC @ Astros Game
June 5-11 Camp Bandina

Sunday Morning Bible Hour Ages 2 to Kindergarten

Parents and children are dismissed to check in during the song before the lesson.

Teachers: Justin and Julia Sammons

May's memory verse: *For nothing is impossible with God. (Luke 1:37)*

OPEN TO ALL! VBS Planning Meeting Sunday May 15th

Following PM Services

Anyone who is willing to help teach, do puppets, set up, clean up, etc. needs to be there. Pizza will be provided.

3rd-5th Grade Devotional

May 15th @ 4:30 p.m.

at Josh and Kimberly Vires home

Camp Kichaca—June 21-24 2nd-6th Grades

This is for children that have completed the 2nd grade through the 6th grade. Be watching the table in the foyer for applications. Questions, please see Chris or Lori Ball.

Vehicle Needed

A Champions family is in need of car to purchase, rent or borrow. If you have a vehicle for sale, loan or lease, please contact an elder or Jeanie Kuehl.

church of Chris IN CHAMPIONS

“A Place to Belong.”

13902 Cutten Road,
Houston, Texas 77069
281-440-9898

www.championschurch.org

Elders:

- David Arnold
- Glenn Asher
- Jim Chitwood
- Bill Johnson
- Britt Jones
- Danny Mize
- Don Sammons
- Marvin Trice

Deacons:

- Phelan (Al) Allee
- Chris Ball
- Kevin Barnett
- Bill Bonham
- Charles Boyd
- Eltonio (Tony) Brown
- Darrell Fariss
- Jay Fraley
- Tommy Hill
- Joe Jackson
- Charles Joachim
- Brent Killough
- David Morgan
- Blake Phillips
- Kent Phillips
- Bryan Runions
- Justin Sammons
- Hank Sheppard
- Joel Smith
- Wes Smith
- Troy Thompson
- Billy Tippit
- James Wyatt

Ministers:

- Larry Keele (Pulpit)
- Alan Reed (Associate)
- John Qualls (Associate)
- Josh Vires (Youth)

PRAYERS & NOTES

Prayer Requests:

Families Who Have Lost Loved Ones: Breithaupt, Rickman, Biron, Zarata, Navarro

Matthew Nance, John and Donna's grandson, is in TCH in the Medical Center with severe dehydration and numerous health issues.

Bailey Gist, Dustin and Jackie's 18 year old daughter, continues her recovery from a brain bleed.

Whitney Gaston, Jess and Peggy Long's granddaughter's, surgery was rescheduled for this week.

Connor Barnett, Kevin and Patricia's son, will be leaving on May 17th for a 12 month work internship in Romania. Prayers for his safe travel and his safety while he's overseas.

Julia Shaw has begun treatment for Lyme disease.

Colton Taylor, the Freeman's nephew, has been moved to a hospital in the Dallas area in preparation for a stem cell implant.

Sheila Durham, friend of Everlina Jones, was diagnosed with cancer.

Laverne Bonham is under hospice care. A sign-up list is

posted on the bulletin for sitters.

Gwen Crosby has been dealing with health issues.

Ramoncito Jatico, father of Mary Buerger (visitor at Champions), has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. Mary will travel to see her father on June 2nd.

Ann Adams sends special thanks for all the prayers for her brother, **Larry Eckert**. He is home from the hospital now and continuing to improve. Please continue to pray for recovery.

Champions Members Ongoing Concerns: John Hixon, Ann Adams, Jerry Johnson, Tasha DiRaffaele, Glenn Dixon, Jan Kelly, Donna Nance, Keith and Linda Underwood, Beth Haden, B.B. & Dorothy Snell

Family and Friends of Champions: Mark Gardiner, Mary Chappell, Buddy Dameron, Jason Word, Mary and Von Chappell, Shelia Morrison

Employment Concerns: Wes Smith, Rudy Morris, Susan Ellis

Expectant Parents: Jeff and Rebekah Johnson, Jordan and Natalie Arnold

Hospice Care: Laverne Bonham, Nora Zarate, Letha (Earlene Antwine's sister)

Cancer Concerns: Jackie Stearsman, Mary McCall Adamek, Laura Carroll, Colter Taylor, Larry Young, Steven Cerny, Bea Augustin, Jack Snyder, Rocky Harrell, Don Freeman, Lawrece Smith, Sandra Underwood, Gary Brown, Nancy Miller, Pat Morrison

Missionaries: Dale DuVerney, Peter Chin, Eddie Cloer, Roman Halamicek, Eric Tan, Roland Moshen, Workers at Biblical Institute of Central America, Eastern European Mission, Jordan Arnold, Will Hanstein, Madison Avalos

Assisted Living/Rehab/Nursing Homes: Terri Bennett, Margurite Pennington, Juanita Cox, Julia Garcia, Nell McDonald, Gladys McHenry, Marie McCall, Jean Simpson

Prayers for Military: Landon White, William E. Taylor IV, George Marcus Jones, Melanie Adams, Travis Long, Aaron Jean, James Chin, Casey Bolin, Charles DuVerney, Ryan Bonham, Phillip Cuccerre, Jr., Eric McCall, Darion DuVerney, Meghan Gillispe

Nursery Attendants

May 15: Jena Asher & Kelly Thompson

If you cannot serve, please find a replacement by checking names posted on the wall outside the nursery classroom. Contact: Karen Casey

**FOR THE RECORD
5/08/16**

Sunday AM 413
 Sunday P.M. nc
 Bible Class Attendance. 318
 Wednesday Night.....nc
 Contribution 17,013.27
 Weekly Budget..... 20,048.00
 YTD Contributions 391,006.57
 YTD Budget 380,912.00
 Over/(Under) 10,094.57

**Service Times:
SUNDAY**

9:00 a.m. Bible Classes
 10:00 a.m. Worship Service
 Sunday Morning Bible Hour

SUNDAY NIGHT:
 6:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
 Ladies Bible Class 9:45 a.m.
 Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

May 2016

Elder of the Month
 Danny Mize

Food Coordinator

Check with your Family Circle Leaders

**Little Champs:
Mothers Day Out**

Contact: Lisa Killough
littlechamps@att.net,
 281-893-2062
 Lisa Killough—Director