

THE CHAMPIONS SPIRIT

I Want That Kind of Game!

While not intending to trivialize life by comparing it to a mere game, there are still similarities—both have an end and both involve a "win"

Ball games often seem to be played out in one of two scenarios. The first is the game where the score is so lopsided that the winner is clearly known long before the final whistle. The other scenario is where the game is so close that the winner is not decided until the very end.

Many people prefer that second type of game—the nail-biter. I'm not like that. The game I really like is where my team takes the lead early, keeps the lead (and greatly increases it) and then wins the game "going away."

I was thinking about these distinct scenarios regarding Life. While not intending to trivialize life by comparing it to a mere game, there are still similarities—both have an end and both involve a "win" or "loss"—although at the end of life the loss is not of a mere contest, but of an eternal soul!

So...my question is—which of the game scenarios describe your life? Right now, is your eternal fate a nail-biter—one of which you will not be sure until the last moment?

Want that? Not me! I want to know the end result *long* before the last few seconds tick off my life's clock. Whether you agree with me or not on earthly games—winning big or just barely, I feel safe assuming that spiritually (eternally), you want to "win big!"

In the Scriptures, we learn how to do that. In Romans 6:3-4, Paul speaks of those who have been baptized into Christ receiving "newness of life." It was of that group, continuing faithfully "in Christ," that he says have "no condemnation" (8:1). It is in that same context that he says Christians "overwhelmingly conquer" (8:37). You see, Christians do "win big!"

The thing is—you are in control of how your "game of life" is played. It doesn't have to be a "nail-biter." You can overwhelmingly conquer! You can know that you win in *Him!* *I Want That Kind of Game!*

—Larry Keele

IN THIS ISSUE

I want That Kind of Game! 1
Family Matters 1
Reed All about It 2
John's Jogs 2
Family News & Notes 3
Calendar of Events 3
Prayers & Notes 4

Family Matters

We are so very thankful for all of our guests today! If you are interested in finding out more about the will of our Lord for your life, we would love to sit down and study His Word with you. Please indicate your desire for such a study on the visitor's card that will be passed in the notebook toward the end of our services. Again, thank you for coming...and come again!

Today marks the beginning of a new quarter for our Bible classes. Why not check out the schedule of all of our Bible stud-

ies—Sunday mornings, Wednesday mornings for ladies, Wednesday evening for everyone—and make it a point to be an active part of them. Remember, Bible classes are *for kids*, but *not just for kids!*

Please keep *Chris* and *Nicole Rutgers* in your prayers. They left yesterday for a week in Bulgaria, where they will meet and visit with the four orphaned children that they are trying to adopt. The whole week will be spent in spending a number of hours each day in getting to

know these children and working on the process of adoption.

Thanks to all of those who are involved in the planning and actual "workings" of this year's Progressive Dinner. You are a blessing.

PARTING THOUGHT: Of all the majestic works God has done throughout the universe, the greatest is that His grace reaches even me!

HAVE A BLESSED WEEK!

Reed All About It:

This past week there was a terrible airplane crash in Columbia. All airplane crashes are bad, but this one was notable because a Brazilian soccer team was on the flight. This soccer team was generating a lot of excitement in Brazil. They were a Cinderella story in that they were performing at a higher level than anyone expected. There were 71 folks who died in the crash with only 6 survivors. This was a charter flight specifically for the soccer team and support staff.

This tragedy was magnified by the contrast between how well life was going for this team and the abrupt ending of life a few hours later. This contrast was clearly seen in the video that captured the team after their latest victory. The players were jumping around and very excited about their prospects. You could see the joy of life in their eyes. The other visible attribute was how young everyone looks in the video. Most of these folks were in their 20s with a lot of life left before them. They are at that age where I remotely

remember as feeling invincible or bullet proof.

While boarding that flight, I am sure the players were not worried about their safety. As a professional sports team, they probably flew all the time. They were likely excited about their recent victory and thinking about playing the next opponent.

The last we see of the players are some short video clips of them getting settled in their seats on the airplane. Everyone still appears to be very happy. We don't know why this airplane crashed. There are some early theories, but I have found it best to wait until the investigation is complete before reaching conclusions. We will never know the fear and terror the people on the airplane were feeling. I am certain that all the thoughts of success at soccer were gone from their minds.

This tragedy is hard to understand. How could God allow such an awful thing to happen to a group of folks

who seemed to be on top of the world? God doesn't promise us a trouble-free life here on earth. We see in John 16:33 that we will have tribulation but we should put our faith in Christ because He has overcome the world.

³³ These things I have spoken to you, so that in Me you may have peace. In the world you have tribulation, but take courage; I have overcome the world."

The confirmation that we will have trouble should not bring us down. We know that with Christ we will have a home in heaven where troubles will be abated. Another key learning from this tragedy is to enjoy every day as if it was our last. Bring joy to the world and focus on being happy. As seen by this airplane crash, life is fragile, and we never know when our time on earth is through. So, for today forget about your troubles and focus on happiness. Blessings,
Alan

John's Jogs: John's Last Three Months continued

Before the day ended yesterday Kathy made sure that the nursing staff understood that they were to keep her informed of anything of significance that transpired with me. She was my rock those first few days. When she wasn't there, I wore out her phone and her - wanting to know why. The nurses as a whole were nurses, who did their job. There were two young blonde nurses who liked my stories and jokes who treated me exceptionally well, and there was one young man who really cared about his patients. When I called his name he came right away. My nurses also cared for a lady across the walkway.

I'm an observer who always studies what he is observing. So we are in a large open space with no walls but just curtains between the patients placed against the wall on each side of the

open space with a large walkway between.

I share my nurses with the lady across the walkway from me. It is obvious she is "somebody" to the staff there. I think, she either worked there or was related to someone who worked there. People were always walking back and forth in that walkway and I naturally observed what was going on in that activity. I remembered, back when I first started working at Holley Carburetor - the person who was to show me around told me, "when you're not working always have a wrench or ruler etc. in your hand to look like you're working. A few years later he came to work for me, and obviously I reminded him of what he told me. Putting these two things together I thought "wow, goofing off has really been upgraded for I've just been observing that nearly

every body going up and down that walkway is pushing a cart with a computer on it.

Now I'm beginning to think this is not a bad deal. I'm just here laying in bed, not in pain, having a little fun observing what is going on around me six doctors observing and studying me with CatScan - MRIs every day. Kathy is jealous because I have a million dollar proof that I have a brain and she doesn't. I am aware that they are draining blood off my brain, but it doesn't hurt and I'm not feeling sorry for myself. I'm just going with the flow. I'm looking forward to the surgery so I can get over it and go to rehab and ultimately go home. I asked Larry to bring the pictures of my car. It's beginning to sink in that I no longer will have a car - I'm going to be without wheels - first time in 70 years. Oh well it's just free-

THE CHAMPIONS SPIRIT

EVENTS AND NEWS

Friday Morning Fellowship (FMF)

All Ages Invited!

December 16th at 9:00 a.m.

Family Center

Champions will have a Friday Morning Fellowship on December 16th at 9:00 a.m. in the Family Center. There will be coffee and snacks with a short lesson and an opportunity for fellowship. Everyone is invited (all ages) to attend, and please take the opportunity to bring friends, neighbors and anyone that would enjoy a time of Bible study and fellowship. Don Sammons will lead the

Church Calendar

December

- 4: Deadline to Sign up for Progressive Dinner
- 4: Deadline for Gift Cards for ARMS
- 6: Ladies Christmas Party
- 10: Adult Progressive Dinner
- 11: Leadership Party
- 15: Men's Night Out

Youth Calendar

December

- 10: Youth group gift exchange party
- 17&18: Holiday Bag Distribution

Progressive Dinner Saturday, December 10th @ 5:30 P.M.

Cost: \$10.00 per person
Entree, Desserts
and Entertainment

Sign-up A.S.A.P. Lists are on the
back wall!

Free Babysitting!

Contacts: Justin & Julia Sammons

Ladies Christmas Party

Dec 6th at 6:30 p.m.

Family Center

*Please bring finger foods and a
\$15 wrapped gift for the gift
exchange.*

Contact; Susan Sammons

PJ'S & PANCAKES

**Please join us Friday night,
December 9th from 6-9p.m.
For PJ's & Pancakes**

WHERE: Killough's
13610 Cardinal Cove Ct.
Cypress, TX 77429

WHAT: Santa will be in attendance for
pictures

WHO: Families with Elementary Kids &
Younger through Married couples with
no kids :)

WHAT TO BRING: Bring you favorite
pancake topping, a giant smile and a hap-
py heart!

See the Killough's for details!

TODAY is the ARMS OF HOPE Bless a Child This CHRISTMAS!

Ornament cards (\$10, \$25 and \$50)
are located in the back of the FC.
Pick up an ornament in the amount
you wish to purchase a gift card,
complete the back of the ornament
and adhere it to the purchased gift
card. Cards may be returned to Alan
Reed, Jeanie Kuehl or Cindy Asher.

Free Holiday Grief Seminars

For Ministers and Professional
Caregivers
Klein Funeral Homes
December 5 or December 6th.
Contact Klein for information.

YOUNG AT HEART CHRISTMAS LUNCH

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15TH
@ 1:00 P.M.**

DUTCH TREAT!

All Young at Heart are invited to
Fratellini Ristorante Restaurant
8905 Louetta Rd., Spring, TX 77379
Please sign the list in the back of the FC
Contact: John Dickenson

Sunday Morning Bible Hour Ages 2 to Kindergarten

Parents and children are dismissed to
check in following the Lord's Supper.

Date	Teacher
December 4	Reid & Natalie Stafford
December 11	Justin & Julia Sammons
December 18	Wes & Christy Smith
December 25	No Bible Hour
January 1	No Bible Hour
January 8	Brent & Lisa Killough
January 15	Reid & Natalie Stafford
January 22	Justin & Julia Sammons
January 29	Tiffiary Thomas
February 5	Brent & Lisa Killough
February 12	Reid & Natalie Stafford
February 19	Justin & Julia Sammons
February 26	Wes & Christy Smith

**Ladies Bible Class
will resume in
January 2017**

Mark Your Calendar
Missions Committee Meeting
Sunday, January 22, 2017
at 4:30P.M.

**Champions 75th
Homecoming!
August 6, 2017**



“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
- Eltonio (Tony) Brown
- Darrell Fariss
- Jay Fraley
- Tommy Hill
- Joe Jackson
- Charles Joachim
- Brent Killough
- Blake Phillips
- Kent Phillips
- Bryan Runions
- Justin Sammons
- Hank Sheppard
- Joel Smith
- Wes Smith
- Paul Tews
- Troy Thompson
- Billy Tippit
- James Wyatt

Ministers:

- Larry Keele (Pulpit)
- Alan Reed (Associate)
- John Qualls (Associate)
- Reid Stafford (Youth)

PRAYERS & NOTES

Prayer Requests:

Sharon DeCarlo is in ICU at Houston Northwest Hospital in very serious condition with pneumonia. Currently she is on a respirator. Please no visitors at this time, but your prayers are much appreciated!

Don Freeman is being placed under hospice care. Please pray for all their family.

Faye Stephens is recovering at the home of her daughter, from a blood clot. Calls are welcome! Her #832-863-8663.

Dennis Cosby is home recovering from shoulder surgery. Please pray for his quick recovery.

Lois Boyd is in Villa Toscana. She fell last week and has two broken bones. She will undergo surgery when she is able.

Hank Sheppard will see a heart surgery on Thursday, December 8th to determine if valve surgery is required.

Willia Osby is home recovering from fractured hip.

Mil Biron is recovering from a heart attack.

Pap Papillon as he regains his strength and for Joyce and his family as they care for him.

Arlene Hale is improving!

Donna Nance has the shingles. Her consultation regarding the transplant has been postpone.

Stephanie O'Brien continues to suffer with vertigo.

Halle Kate Spivey, The Bluhm's soon to be born granddaughter, has been diagnosed with a congenital heart defect. She will undergo a series of 3 surgeries following her birth in early December. Please pray for her well-being and for her parents, Autumn and Britt Spivey.

Mil Biron is recovering from a heart attack.

Caella Chappell is taking treatments for breast cancer. To help with meals, please check church email..

Glenn Dixon continues to struggle with pain..

John Michael Cervia, Barbara Hamilton's cousin, is recovering from a leg amputation.

Victor Slovacek, Allison Culpepper's brother, has been moved to Kindred Hospital in Tomball to continue his recovery.

Recovering from surgery:

Paul Tews, John Dickenson, Hank Sheppard, Mary Armstrong, Leslie Bills, Susan Ellis, Glenn Dixon, Victor Slovacek

Champions Members Ongoing

Concerns: Leslie Bills, John Hixon, Jan Kelly, Keith and Linda Underwood, B.B. & Dorothy Snell, Crosby, White, Miracle families

Family and Friends of Cham-

pions: David Jenkins, Hunter Anderson, Laurie Spears, Otha Farmer

Cancer Concerns:

Pap Papillon, Don Freeman, Caella Chappell, Wayne Hemingway, Jackie Stearsman, Colter Taylor, Bea Augustin, Rocky Harrell, Lawrece Smith, Sandra Underwood, Gary Brown, Pat Morrison, Ted Poe, Toby Higginbotham, Debi Byers

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, Mario Saldana and Aaron Solis

Assisted Living/Rehab/ Nursing

Homes: John Qualls, Terri Bennett, Margurite Pennington, Juanita Cox, Julia Garcia, Nell McDonald, Gladys McHenry, Marie McCall, Jean Simpson, Doris Kiser, James Birdow, Charles Bowers

Prayers for Military:

Traveon Gaines, 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 Gillispie

Families Who Have Lost Loved

Ones: McCall

Employment Concerns: Bill Hicks, Rudy Morris

Nursery Attendants

December 4: Thresa Dickenson & Joan Burns

December 11: Karen Casey & Rosie Martinez

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
11/27/2016**

Sunday Combined Services 394
Sunday Bible Class.....200
Sunday Night166
Wednesday Night.....170
Contribution..... 18,124.88
Weekly Budget20,047.88
YTD Contributions 942,994.74
YTD Budget 962,304.00
Over/(Under).....(19,309.26)

Service Times:

SUNDAY:
8:15 a.m. First Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Bible Class
10:30 a.m. Second Worship Service

SUNDAY NIGHT:
6:00 p.m.

Wednesday:
LBC 9:45 a.m.
Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Elder of the Month

December

Don Sammons

Food Coordinator

Check with your Family Circle Leaders

Church Wi-Fi Password

churchguest

Little Champs:

Mothers Day Out

Contact: Lisa Killough
littlechamps@att.net

281-893-2062

Lisa Killough—Director