

THE CHAMPIONS SPIRIT

The One That Got Away

It is still a phenomenon—at least to me. For several weeks, at various times of the day or evening, I have seen a number of cars parked in our front lot, generally near our sign. Often, the drivers—mostly young adults—would be out of their cars, and while some gathered together, other individuals were just standing outside their car. Regardless of where they were, all of them—or nearly all of them—were staring intently at their cell-phones.

Wednesday afternoon, another 10 to 15 cars were parked out front, so I decided to go out and ask if I could be of any help to them. I couldn’t. You see, the group had gathered because they were all chasing a “Pokémon” (a reality game creature that appears on a mobile device as if it were really at certain GPS coordinated locations). However,



as I came upon the scene, evidently the critter had already come and gone. The young man I talked with didn’t get his Pokémon (and no, I didn’t chase it away!). So, off the young gamer went—either chasing the “one that got away” or another creature—I’m just not sure which. The game will go on, I suppose.

This makes me ask—without judging the Pokémon game or its players, “what is it that we chase?” There are so many targets with which the world tries to allure us to try to catch—fame, fortune, health, education, technology—the list is endless—but the result is the same. Solomon tells us as much. He chased after all that the world had to offer, but found it all “vanity” or “meaningless” (Eccl. 1:2) and just trying to catch “the wind.” (Eccl. 1:14, etc.) Chase after one, chase after another—nothing is going to last. Solomon did discover the chase that was truly, eternally meaningful and that was the conclusion of his book...to “fear God and keep His commandments.” (Eccl. 12:13). Whether you play Pokémon and catch—or miss—some creature makes no eternal difference. Whether you find fame, fortune or health will make no difference in a thousand years. There is one thing that is important! Whatever you do in life...don’t let the quest for Solomon’s conclusion—of a relationship with God and obedience to His commands—be *The One That Got Away*.
--Larry Keele

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Family Matters

Sing for joy to God our strength...Psa. 81:1 One of the things that we will be doing together today is raising our voices and singing to our God and one another! We are so blessed by Him that we can do nothing less than sing His praise! All are invited to join in! (By the way, this evening is our monthly “Sunday Night Singing.” See you then!

We are thankful to announce the addition of *Andy* and *Joelle Yates* to the Champions family as they decided to place their membership with us. We look forward to serving our Lord together with them!
Next Sunday evening, *Justin Sammons* will be presenting the lesson as he will share with the Champions family the results of

the congregational survey that was completed recently. I think you will be interested in the results!

PARTING THOUGHT:
A bitter world cannot be sweetened by sour Christians!

HAVE A BLESSED WEEK!

Larry

Adult Bible Classes

Adult Bible Classes, Among our Greatest Blessings!! Class to be Added.

Attending Champions congregation offers opportunities for individual spiritual growth through excellent Bible classes. This great privilege should be treasured by each of us. Not only do we have the privilege of attending these classes, but also we have the opportunity to bring others to know this blessed privilege. Each class meets at 9 each Sunday morning. It is definitely worth the effort to attend and it will also be an encouragement for you to love the Truth of the Bible to a greater

degree.

Now, we have Adult Bible classes, which meet in the family Center. If you attend one of these classes, we urge you to continue to share and show others this plan.. As Follows
Exodus, the Great Deliverance - by Glenn Asher & Mike McCall FC (auditorium)
Jesus teaches Parables - Danny Mize & Don Sammons FC Rm 117
College class & Professionals Rooms 119 & 120 FC -Chris Ball & Bryan Runions
Families Class meets in Room 212 - Main Building - by Wes Smith & Jus-

tin Sammons

Sunday November 12, an adult class will be added, meeting in the recently remodeled main auditorium, which should offer better access for those needing and desiring such access and study

**Class to be Added:
Proverbs Speaks to Me - Taught by:**
David Arnold and Wes Arnold

In addition, there are classes for all ages at 9:00 each Sunday morning. Nothing could be more important.

John's Jogs: TRIBUTE OF A CROOKED CANE

I have completed the half way point in articles on the book of Acts, and we are entering the holiday season. Therefore I'm suspending the Acts articles for the rest of the year and reproducing articles that are pertinent to the season. My crooked cane was part of my costume for trick or treat and caught the attention of a few people. It's been nearly five years since I last ran this article. So here it is for the new people.

TRIBUTE OF A CROOKED CANE
Six years ago tomorrow I published this article. Many of you new folks have asked about my crooked cane, so I decided to re-publish the article. Here it is!

Last week "Tiny," Richard Garza presented me with a "*crooked cane*" he had made for me. It was made from a limb that had blown into his yard – type of wood unknown. He had trimmed, sanded and applied 7 coats of almond oil to keep it strong. His statement was that he had noticed that occasionally I used a cane and he made this one especially for me. He continued that it represented my character.

Jokingly, my first response was, "*are you saying I'm crooked?*" His response was "No! No! I mean your life has taken many twists and turns and had many knots and bumps along the way, and it has left you with the strength and stability to carry on." I thought what a tremendous response from a great friend.

As I analyze the cane, I find at least 7 or maybe 8 bends or turns in it. Applying that to my life, I have held 7 different jobs. In my youth I lived in 8 different houses. In our married life Ramona and I have lived in 8 different homes over 60 years. In my lifetime, I have been hospitalized 8 times.

There are at least 21 knots and or branch cuts on the cane – they can obviously represent all the heartaches, disappointments as well as successes and opportunities that have touched my life. There are innumerable streaks and stripes in the cane which represent the many friends who have and do support me in life.

In exploring a way to present this tribute, my first thought was for the nursery rhyme "*A crooked man walked a crooked mile.*" This started the inspiration juices flowing in Ramona's poetic mind and she developed the following poem.

The Crooked Cane

Recently a special man observed my somewhat crooked frame,
He expressed in 80 years my life and body had many twists and turns,
A little bent and unsteady at times.
So he found a strong and crooked branch which fell from a sturdy tree,
And took the time and effort to make a cane for me.
I'll treasure - and when needed use this crooked cane,
Because someone cared enough to notice my bent and aged frame!

Thank You Richard, for the cane as well as all the other caring things you do for others and a special thank you for the great food displays you prepared on numerous occasions...He has made other canes for people.

THE CHAMPIONS SPIRIT

EVENTS AND NEWS



**MEN'S PRAYER
BREAKFAST**

**Men's Prayer Breakfast
Saturday, November 18th
@ 8:00 A.M.
in The Family Center**

Please sign the sign-up list posted in the Welcome Center.
Contact: Wes Arnold

Church Calendar

November

7: Election Day (Family Center)
12: Hicks Bridal Shower
18: Men's Prayer Breakfast
19: Youth Led Devo
22: All Church Devotional (No Classes)
23-24: Office Closed Thanksgiving



Madison Hicks Bridal Shower

All ladies are invited to a Bridal Shower honoring *Madison Hicks*, Bride-elect of *Evan Bullock*, on Sunday, November 12th @ 4:00 P.M.

They are registered at Target and Bed Bath and Beyond. If you would like to assist, please contact Karen McCall

LTC MEETING TODAY! Calling ALL PARENTS! All COACHES! And All VOLUNTEERS!

There will be an initial LTC meeting for parents, coaches and volunteers immediately following service this morning. Please meet in the front of the Auditorium in the Right Wing.

All Church Devotional Wednesday, November 22nd At 7:00 P.M.

Champions will have an ALL church Devotional on Wednesday, prior to Thanksgiving Day. Please meet in the Main Building Auditorium.

Survey Results Sunday P.M. on November 12th

Justin Sammons will be presenting the results of the survey that our Champions family was given the opportunity to participate in. Mark your calendar!

Sunday Morning Bible Hour Ages 2 to Kindergarten

Parents and children are dismissed to check in following the Lord's Supper.
November 5----Tiffiany Thomas
November 12---Aaron & Ashley Trent
November 19---Justin and Julie Sammons

Youth Events

November

11-12: Fall Retreat
17: FNL
19: Youth Led Service (PM)
19: Youth Devo after Services

Friday Morning Fellowship

**November 17th @ 9:00
A.M.**

All are invited!
Come and join in this great fellowship opportunity. Breakfast foods provided!

Contact: Don Sammons

Eddie Cloer, Truth for Today Postponed

The visit of Eddie Cloer on November 12 to provide an update on the work of Truth for Today has been delayed due to an unexpected conflict in plans.

Wednesday Night Meal November 8th

Menu: Hamburger Steak, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Veggie, Dessert
Cost: Adults \$5.00, Children \$3.00 (Ages 3-6th Grade), Children 2 and under Free. Meal served from 5:45 - 6:30 p.m.

Champions Softball Game—November 6th

All games will be played at the Northland Christian School baseball field located at 14279 Sylvanfield, Houston, TX 77014.

7:00 P.M.—Champions vs. Bammel

8:00 P.M.—Spring Creek vs. Bammel



“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
- Barney Bowles
- Eltonio (Tony) Brown
- Gordon Casey
- Darrell Fariss
- Jay Fraley
- Tommy Hill
- Joe Jackson
- Charles Joachim
- Brent Killough
- Michael McCall
- David Morgan
- Ryan Nelson
- Blake Phillips
- Kent Phillips
- Bryan Runions
- Justin Sammons
- Hank Sheppard
- Joel Smith
- Wes Smith
- Paul Tews
- Troy Thompson
- James Wyatt

Ministers:

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

PRAYERS & NOTES

Sharon DeCarlo is in ICU at Willowbrook Methodist Hospital with A-fib and pneumonia. Please no visitors at this time.

Paul Chandler will have surgery possibly on Monday for a torn ligament (ACL).

Pam Shaw has a blood clot behind her eyebrow. She is waiting on pathology results from the liver biopsy. Radiation treatments maybe postponed due to blood clot.

Sue Trice received good news in that the pathology report showed it was breast cancer, not sarcoma. She will need radiation treatments, but not chemo. **Michelle Smith's** surgery was postponed.

Jennifer Breithaupt was moved to Willowbrook Resident Rehab Center, 13631 Ardfield Dr., Houston, TX, #105. She is recovering from an infection.

Lana Webster had a diagnostic CT scan last week to determine the cause of a persistent sore throat.

Yvonne Miller is taking PT for her back injury.

Claire Rickman will have her tonsils removed on November 16th at St. Luke's Vintage Hospital.

Gilbert Moreno will have scans soon to see if his cancer is responding to treatments.

Darrell Fariss as he regains his strength from pneumonia.

Juanita Berg is recovering from a foot infection.

Richard Garza is recovering from back surgery.

Oleta Coleman is in Tomball Hospital, Rm. 308, with pneumonia.

Iona Lazerko, Nick's mother, continues to recover from her recent heart issues.

Hurricane Victims Fires in California.

The Champions Family Members with Cancer: John Burns, Caella Chappell, Donna Nance, Gilbert Moreno, Sue Trice, Karen Watson

Champions Members Ongoing Concerns:

Wynon Ballard, Ron & Carole Blankenship, Willie Birdow, Ronnie and Judy Throneberry, Julia Shaw, Sally Enders, Fay Stephens, Keith and Linda Underwood, B.B. & Dorothy Snell, Pam Woodley, John Hixon, Christy Smith

Expectant Parents: Lance & Sarah Kinsey 12-2017

Hospice Care: Dallas Hicks, Barbara Brown

Family and Friends with Cancer Concerns:

Baby Gus, Jean Taylor, Bea Augustin, Rocky Harrell, Joyce Kidwell-Stearsman, Randy McKain, Glenda Robinson, Benowane Burrus, Pastora Moreno

Families Who Have Lost Loved

Ones: Willis, Smith, Lusk, Kelley, Dearen, Carter, Sowders

Friends and Family Members

with Ongoing Concerns:

Lynn McKee, Stan Titlow, Glenn Dixon, Emily Joyce Pal-lat, Robert Nevels

Missionaries:

Dale DuVerney, Peter Chin, Eddie Cloer, Roman Halamicek, Roland Mohsen, Biblical Institute of Central America, Eastern European Mission, Jordan Arnold, Will Hanstein, and Aaron Solis, Elijah Brown

Employment Concerns:

Ernest Harris, Jr, Ishmael Zarate

Assisted Living/Rehab/ Nursing Homes:

Terri Bennett, Margurite Pennington, Nell McDonald, Marie McCall, Jean Simpson, Mike Wright

Prayers for our Military:

Landon White, Brent Tyler Bowles, Traveon Gaines, William E. Taylor IV, George Marcus Jones, Melanie Adams, Travis Long, Aaron Jean, Charles DuVerney, Ryan Bonham, Phillip Cuccerre, Jr., Darion DuVerney

Nursery Attendants

November 5: Margaret Jenson & Jan Aduddell

November 12: 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
10/29/2017**

Sunday Morning	352
Sunday Bible Class	254
Sunday Night	157
Wednesday Night.....	132
Contribution.....	20,690.62
Weekly Budget	20,057.69
YTD Contributions.	916,150.51
YTD Budget	882,538.36
Over/(Under).....	33,612.15

Service Times:

SUNDAY:

9:00 a.m. Bible Class
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

SUNDAY NIGHT:

6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

LBC 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 7:00 p.m.

Elder of the Month

November

Marvin Trice

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