

KNOCK AND KEEP KNOCKING

Some people will have you believe that God is like a celestial Santa Claus. Just ask Him for what you want and He will give it to you. Period. And you need not ask but once, for if you ask more than once it is a sign you lack faith.

Those who have majored in prayer and intercession know how false this teaching is. Sooner or later comes the dark night of the soul when life seems futile, God is far away and no one appears to be listening to your prayers. In fact, more times than not, what you ask for is not given you. But do not quit. If prayer is not plain selfish or silly, keep praying.

The story in Mark of the four men who brought the paralyzed man to Jesus is a striking example of persistence. These four must have been faithful, determined friends who had been praying for the sick man for some time. When they arrived at the house where Jesus was staying, the place was so mobbed with people, there was no way to get inside.

They didn't quit and go home, but they studied the situation, then removed part of the roof and let the man down on his pallet through the opening into the presence of Jesus. How Jesus must have loved their tenacity. "Rise, take up you pallet and go home," He commanded, and the paralyzed man was instantly healed and did as Jesus command.

Brethren, if it is worth praying for, then keep praying!
--Selected

ARENAS VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST
5 Racetrack Road
Silver City, New Mexico 88061

THE REMINDER

ARENAS VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST
5 RACETRACK ROAD
SILVER CITY, NEW MEXICO 88061

September 16, 2018
MINISTERS
Ed Young—590-3010
Floyd Robertson—538-2971

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Bible Class.....10:00 A. M.
Worship..... 11:00 A. M.
Afternoon..... 1:30 P. M.

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Bible Class..... 11:00 A.M.

THURSDAY

Bible Class..... 6:30 P. M.

YOU WILL ALWAYS BE WELCOME
arenasvalleycofc@yahoo.com (email)
www.avchurchofchrist. (website)

NEWS ANDNOTES

WELCOME VISITORS! Please fill out a visitor's card so we will have a record of your visit.

PRAYER LIST: Deby Maldonado, also her son Michael, Kyle and Brad Young—health, Verdos & Wanda Mullins-heart and cancer, also John & Dorothy Callahan, their care givers. Sandra has requested prayers for the following: Mark Faulk (heart), Johnny Sanchez (her father), Ross Collins (heart surgery), Becky Sanchez (her mother), Mary Mikkelson (cancer), Brittany Brannon, Joy Morris, Billy Chadburn.

THANK YOU LADIES for the food furnished for the meeting. You did a great job; I knew you would.

Heaven was made to rejoice last Wednesday evening when E. J. Hall confessed his Lord and put Him on in Baptism. Let us not forget to encourage him.

PRAY FOR OUR VETERANS, OUR COUNTRY AND THE PRESIDENT, AND OUR FALL MEETING.

JUST FOR THE RECORD Last Week Last Year

SUNDAY

Bible Class 21 20

Worship 29 30

Evening 15 9

THURSDAY EVENING

Bible Study 14 9

CONTRIBUTION \$967.00 \$1091.00

RECORD ATTENDANCE FOR THE MEETING:

Monday 47 Tuesday 43 Wednesday 49

It was so encouraging to have the good number in attendance.

WHAT DO WE NEED NOW?

We have just finished four great days of spiritual feeding. All of us have been built up and excited about the Lord's work. Now what? What do we need now to maintain the same enthusiasm we had a week ago? The answer, keep doing the same things that we were doing in preparation for the meeting. Praying, inviting, encouraging each other, as though we were preparing for another Gospel Meeting.

What's needed? Perseverance! Hanging in there doing the same things we were doing, that's perseverance. Remember, the Christian race is not a sprint, it is an ongoing marathon. We need perseverance in every phase of our lives, but especially in the Lord's work.

To be sure, there are going to be times of disappointment, times of exhaustion, times of discouragement, but there is never a time for one to quit running the race.

The early church had perseverance. Paul commended the Thessalonian church in I Thessalonians 1:3 and II Thessalonians 2:4 for their perseverance. Jesus commended the churches at Ephesus and Thyatira for their perseverance in Revelation 2:2; 19.

The church must have awed the first century world with their perseverance, and questioned: "What's with these Christian folks?" How can they keep on singing, praying, and telling others about this Jesus?

Don't you think it may have been the anticipation of something greater coming? The joy of knowing that their perseverance was leading to something greater? The apostle Paul best described it this way: "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18. Brethren, keep running, hang in there, don't quit, the race is not over yet. Just remember the time will soon come when we will be glorified and receive an inheritance beyond description. Remember too, only those who run the race with perseverance can receive the crown.