

THE REAL PROBLEM

Have you ever noticed how rowdy and rambunctious young children can be? They certainly introduce a disruptive element into the Sunday morning services of most congregations. Sometimes it is hard to concentrate and listen to the sermon because of the distracting sound of crying babies. Little ones crawl on the pews, over the pews, and under the pews, making it quite difficult for those sitting around them to maintain a worshipful mood during the weekly communion service. Furthermore, the rattling and clatter of noisy toys can easily become the source of unwelcome irritation when sincere Christians are trying to focus their thoughts in prayer.

But, while all of the above might be true, that is not the real problem. The real problem is when there are no little children in the congregation whatsoever. The only thing worse than crying babies and running children is no babies and no children.

Several years ago, I preached in a meeting for a twenty-member congregation in rural Oklahoma. It was a congregation composed exclusively of senior citizens. They were so pleased on the last night of that meeting when my wife and children were in attendance. Two elderly ladies cornered me after the final prayer. One of them asked, "Do you know what my favorite part of the whole week was? After it was all over...it was wondrous to have children running in the building again!" The second lady began to cry as she said in a trembling voice, "It was so good to hear a baby crying in the auditorium." After an emotional pause she concluded, "It has been so long".

The real problem is not noisy or unruly children; the real problem is when there are no children in the congregation. If you are part of a vibrant congregation brimming with energetic children, then, please try to be more patient and strive to communicate to young families that children are a welcomed presence in your assemblies. Go out of your way to praise mothers and fathers for their hard work instead of criticizing them too harshly when their newborn babies and young toddlers find it difficult, if not downright impossible, to sit still for an entire hour. Most importantly, strive to see precious little boys and girls for exactly what they are, the future life of God's church and the rich resource of eternal blessings. The Psalmist says it best:

Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children of one's youth. Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; they shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate. (Psalms 127:3-5)

-Tim Lewis (North MacArthur church, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma).



That meets at 215 South Thomas Ave, Sayre, PA 18840
(570) 886-1838

Arthur Barry, evangelist- (607) 280-1732

February 7, 2016

WELCOME!

Sunday Bible Class- 9:30 a.m.

Worship- 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Class- 6:30 p.m.



Today's Sermon: *What a Mighty God We Serve!*

- Sermons are recorded and are available for listening on the church website.
- Bulletins are archived on the website.

valleycitieschurchofchrist.org
aicoc.org

Scripture: Psalm 89:1-13

Hymns: 590 Jesus Is All The World to Me; **123** The Steadfast Love Of The Lord; **945** Kneel At The Cross; **993** What A Mighty God We Serve; **992** Can You Count The Stars?

UPCOMING EVENTS...

- **Ladies Class**, Tuesday, February 7TH. Patty will lead the lesson on the fourth chapter of Esther.
- Potluck Dinner- next Sunday, February 21st.
- Spiritual Giftedness Seminar- April 23-25. Doug Hamilton from the Camp Hill church will present this program here at Valley Cities.



- Our church received a substantial gift of money from a group of individuals in the Camp Hill, PA church.
 - An exploratory team from the Antioch Initiative will be coming up to Tunkhannock, PA the first week in May to start making plans to plant a church there.
 - There will be a campaign in June to contact all interested people in the Tunkhannock area for Bible studies and worship.
 - Doug and Darlene Elsbree have returned from their sojourn in Florida. Darlene plans to attend ladies class on Tuesday.
- The probability of life originating by accident is comparable to the possibility of the unabridged

PRAYERS...

- Linda Hicks needs to have a procedure done on her spine that allows her to self medicate for pain.
- Darla Towell, Katie Barry's aunt, from the church in Soldotna, AK, has cancer in her liver and pancreas. She will be having an MRI to see what treatments she needs.
- Lori Kashorek, wife of Doug, the preacher at the church in Plattsburg, has had a recurrence of lung cancer. She has had her second round of chemo and plans to continue her teaching job as long as she is able. She has asked for prayers.
- Please pray for the outreach effort of the Antioch Initiative to start a church in Tunkhannock, PA in the spring.
- Linda Hicks has a little 4-year-old neighbor girl, Rayne, who was born without a chemical in her brain that controls levels of excitement. Pray that her doctors can remedy the situation, as her heart could stop if left untreated.
- Felicity Hicks had pneumonia, and was being treated with antibiotics.

If you have any prayers or news that you would like included in the bulletin, please contact Sandy Barry barnecat7237@gmail.com or text or call (607) 261-0911.

❖ *You are often sorry for saying a harsh word, but you will never regret saying a kind one.*

