



## Sick

### At Home:

*Georgia Brooks*  
*Debbie Fitro (Rickey Hurst's sister)*  
*Grady Hurst (Rickey's father)*  
*Mary Davis-following surgery*  
*Preslie Slatton (granddaughter of Jim & June Slatton)*  
*Melba Hillis (Steve's grandmother)*  
*Asa Kell*  
*Billy Gilbert Family*  
*Harley Northcutt*  
*Christine Cantrell*  
*Terann Hillis*  
*Betty Upton (at her son's home: Ernest Upton, 2690 Midland Road, Shelbyville, TN 37160)*

### In The Hospital:

*none known at this time.*

## Sermons Topics

Sunday AM ..... Diagnosing David's Problems  
 Sunday PM ..... The Tried Faith

## A New Calendar

I just unwrapped a new calendar,  
 Three-hundred-sixty-five pages smooth and cold  
 I fanned them through my fingers,  
 Wondering what each day would hold.  
 Joy, happiness, death-the sod?  
 There's no way I can know.  
 But the answer lies in walking each day,  
 By the side of my living God.

~Benny Bristow~

*Live each day as if it were your  
 last – someday you'll be right.*

## CLOCK

BRIEF SERMONS ARE in great demand...

If one could package and sell twenty-minute sermons with "preheat and serve" instructions, he would become an instant Forbes celebrity. The "hurry up and get this over with" philosophy has found a home in the church.

"If a man cannot strike oil in twenty minutes, he is drilling with a dull bit" may provide a chuckle, but not from the spiritual mind intent on drinking deep from the well of living water. Sunday's high noon sounds the gun for the Indianapolis 500 to the local restaurants; beating the Baptists to the drumstick has become a sporting event.

One brother said, "When the sermon goes overtime, I turn it off." Rest assured he never said that about his favorite television program. One can easily discern Sunday's time of day by taking note of the activity in the pew. Proceeding past the "allotted time" is like scraping the top of an ant bed. Overtime is no man's land where preachers void of stout hearts fear to tread.

Some attempts to justify this disturbing lack of interest in God, worship and the gospel by pointing to man's diminutive attention span. This is insane. The application of this point is always limited to small children or adults in a worship assembly.

The truth is, the capacity of one's concentration is dependent upon his sense of priority and interest. One lacking in spirituality can devote rapt attention for several hours to some entertainment medium, while experiencing a severe shortage of mental vigilance under the sound of gospel preaching.

Missionaries tell of people who walk for miles to sit for hours on backless boards in thatched huts and scorching heat to feast on the treasures of the gospel. It is indeed tragic when one's interest in spiritual things can be exhausted during the course of a thirty-minute sermon. ~Frank Chesser~

## Notes From Steve

### BIBLE BOWL WRAPUP

When the final tally was counted over 400 youth and "others" assembled at Woodbury last Sunday afternoon for the Bible Bowl. So many valuable lessons are at the student's disposal in our study of Genesis. The Bybee Branch team represented themselves well again missing only two questions and finishing in a tie for third.

Congratulations to Arlington, Mt. Leo, New Hope, West Sparta, and Woodbury Varsity for placing first in the competition. Second place went to the youth from Beech Grove, Central, Morrison, Smith Grove, and Woodbury's Junior Varsity. Along with Bybee Branch in third were Dibrell, Hebron, Ivy Bluff, Leoni, and New Union. Bringing home the pink ribbons were Bluff Springs, Smyrna, and Unity.

### PEW PACKER'S CLASS

Another year brings another round of classes for the Pew Packers! Our theme for this year is "Colors" and our first meeting is this Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. The color for January is GOLD.

## Strength For The Asking

A little boy was having a hard time lifting a heavy stone. His father asked, "Are you using all your strength?"

"Yes, I am," the boy replied.

"No you're not," said the father. "I'm right here waiting, and you haven't asked me to help."

When we are faced with a problem that seems unsolvable or a burden that is too heavy, we might ask ourselves, "Are we using all our strength?" Our Father, too, is waiting to help.

~copied~

### S.B.B. & I.B.S.

After a month off, we will begin the stretch run for Spiritual Body Building and Inner Beauty Salon. Lisa Hilton is doing a fantastic job with the girls and the boys are working their way toward a speaking engagement in May. We will meet this Sunday evening following our worship. Be prepared to go out and eat after our sessions.

### BBYG HOODIES

I have extended the cutoff for ordering Hoodies till this Sunday. The response has been awesome and I want to make sure everyone gets a chance to order. A second sign-up sheet is on the youth bulletin board. Also, any adults that want one just put your name down!

### FAMILY MATTERS RETREAT

Please make plans to join us February 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> as we embark on another trip to Pigeon Forge and Family Matters. See me for the cost. Also, you can go to [www.familymattersretreat.com](http://www.familymattersretreat.com) for more information.

## Sitter-Quitter-Or Getter

I'm a SITTER, I just want to sit and enjoy the service and do nothing.

I'm a QUITTER. I taught a class once, but I've served my time. I even visited for the church a time or two, but no one was home. If anything is done in this church, somebody else will have to do it.

I'm a GETTER. The more I think about God and His salvation, the more I want to do for Him. Even today He is preparing a place for me, in eternity. He hasn't stopped working for me, so I will continue to work for Him.

~copied~