

Shepherd Tuesday Happenings For August 19, 2008

Dear Shepherdites and Friends,

What a great day, I woke up, the sun was shining and the birds were only mildly coughing from the car smog on our street. I don't complain, because God has given us another day, another opportunity to serve Him.

Just Thinking -- Last week, we were in a Mexico. It was beautiful, it was different and there was a lot to do.

However, about mid-week, we had a deep yearning. We wanted to go to Wal-Mart.

Now I speak a little Spanish, but to be on the safe side, we asked the travel representative, how to get to Wal-Mart; since most of the bus drivers did not speak English. He told us that it was 6 ½ pesos each and to catch bus #2 or #15; say, "Wal-Mart" to the driver and there would be no problem....Right.

We walked to the bus stop, got on the bus, gave the driver 15 pesos and said, "Wal-Mart". He handed us 2 tickets, no change, and said, "Wal-Mart".

We rode through the hotel area, we rode through the tourist area, we rode through some inter-city; when the driver suddenly had a brain flash and asked in broken English, "Wal-Mart?" I said, "Si", but knew right then that we were in trouble. He indicated in Spanish and with gestures that he had forgotten to let us off at the correct stop; but Wal-Mart was only 5 minutes, that way. He pointed in a direction and we got off the bus. It was then that we realized that there were 3 different streets that went "that way".

We did as most tourists would do; we headed for the nearby McDonalds, got some bottled water and asked "Where is Wal-Mart?" Again the response, "That way". We walked for about an hour and a half, asked for directions several times and always got the same response, "That way".

Finally, exhausted, we waved down a taxi and returned to the hotel; never seeing a sign of Wal-Mart. If we had just taken our map with us, we would have known that we were only about 2 blocks from Wal-Mart.

Life is a lot like that, we trust in others, are disappointed and do not seem to reach our goal. If we seek God's map for life, the Bible, perhaps we would know that our spiritual goals are within reach, and avoid wandering aimlessly. James tells us, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." (James 1:22 NIV)

Discipleship Training – What is Discipleship Training? Don't let it scare you; it is simply like Sunday School, except we meet in member's/friend's homes. There is about a half hour of lesson and then snacks & fellowship, as we get to know each other better.

This week we will meet at either 7 pm on Tuesday or Thursday, your choice. Tuesday we will meet at the home of Pastor and Mrs. Coleman, 225 Charter Oak, Lexington; Thursday we will meet at the home of Van and Clarence Coleman, 2840 Dogwood Trail, Lexington. If you haven't started attending at least one session a week, you are missing a blessing. This counts toward our Sunday School attendance.

Wednesday Bible Study – Prayer and Bible study are this Wednesday at 7 pm at the Church. This week we resume our study of the Parables of Jesus in Luke 18.

Missionary Books – It's time to start reading the Missionary Books for this year. Every church member or friend is urged to read or listen to all 6 books before May 2009. We have 2 full sets of books and a complete set of books on CD. This year is the centennial year for the church and the books cover the history of the church in the various Mission Regions throughout the world. They are easy to read or you can listen to them on CD as you ride about. See Van Coleman for the books or CDs.

Finally -- An old dollar bill and an even older \$20 arrive at a Federal Reserve to be retired.

"I've had a pretty good life," the \$20 says. "I've been to Vegas, the finest restaurants in New York, and even on a Caribbean cruise."

"You did have an exciting life!" the dollar says.

"Where have you been?" the \$20 asks.

"Oh, I've been to the Methodist church, the Baptist church, spent some time with the Nazarenes..."

"Wait," the \$20 interrupts. "What's a church?"

See you in church. Remember; come home to Shepherd, where you are family.

John

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