



# Senior Heartbeat



TEMPLE  
BAPTIST CHURCH  
COME GATHER AROUND THE WORD

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## Greek trip gives Biblical insights

By Dale Oden

Greetings from Athens, Greece! Seventy of us are

over here following the Footsteps of Paul. As you read this article, most of

our journey will be over. But thus far it has been an exciting trip. Our flights were

great and everyone's luggage arrived as it was supposed to do. We spent our first

day touring Corinth and Athens. Corinth is where the Apostle Paul spent about 18 months sharing the Gospel and establishing a church and later in his ministry would write letters back to the congregation there.

We have two of the letters in our Bible, but many believe that he wrote two other letters that did not get into our Bibles. In Corinth, Paul met Aquila and Priscilla and worked with them as a tent maker.

Our visit in Athens took us up to the Acropolis. How fascinating to see the ruins that have been standing for 2,500 years.

It was here that Paul preached to the people on Mars Hill. We all have been impressed with the magnitude of everything we have seen.

I hope many of you will come to our April luncheon. It is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall at See Brochures, P. 2.

### Where have all the old words gone?

Author Unknown

Mergatroyd!... Do you remember that word? Would you believe the spell-checker did not recognize the word Mergatroyd? Heavens to Mergatroyd!

The other day a not so elderly (I say 75) lady said something to her son about driving a Jalopy; and he looked at her quizzically and said "What the heck is a Jalopy?" He never heard of the word jalopy!! She knew she was old... But not that old.

Well, I hope you are Hunky Dory after you read this and chuckle.

About a month ago, I illuminated some old expressions that have become obsolete because of the inexorable march of technology.

These phrases included: Don't touch that dial, Carbon copy, You sound like a broken record, and Hung out to dry.

Back in the olden days we had a lot of moxie. We'd put on our best bib and tucker, to straighten up and fly right.

Heavens to Betsy! Gee whillikers! Jumping Jehoshaphat! Holy moley!

We were in like Flynn and living the life of Riley; and even a regular guy couldn't accuse us of being a knucklehead, a nincompoop or a pill. Not for all the tea in China!

Back in the olden days, life used to be swell, but when's the last time anything was swell? Swell has gone the way of beehives, pageboys and the D.A.; of spats, knickers, fedoras, poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and pedal pushers.

Oh, my aching back! Kilroy was here, but he isn't anymore. We wake up from what

surely has been just a short nap, and before we can say, "Well, I'll be a monkey's uncle!" Or, "This is a fine kettle of fish!" we discover that the words we grew up with, the words that seemed omnipresent, as oxygen, have vanished with scarcely a notice from our tongues and our pens and our keyboards.

Poof, go the words of our youth, the words we've left behind. We blink, and they're gone. Where have all those great phrases gone?

Long gone: Pshaw, The milkman did it. Hey! It's your nickel. Don't forget to pull the chain. Knee high to a grasshopper. Well, Fiddlesticks! Going like sixty. I'll see you in the funny papers. Don't take any wooden nickels. Wake up and smell the roses.

It turns out there are more of these lost words and expressions than Carter has liver pills. This can be disturbing stuff! (Carter's Little Liver Pills are gone too!)

We of a certain age have been blessed to live in changeable times. For a child each new word is like a shiny toy, a toy that has no age.

We at the other end of the chronological arc have the advantage of remembering there are words that once did not exist and there were words that once strutted their hour upon the earthly stage and now are heard no more, except in our collective memory.

It's one of the greatest advantages of aging. Leaves us to wonder where Superman will find a phone booth..

See ya later, alligator! Oki-doki.

— From Fred Benefield



# Chuckle Corner

A Sunday School teacher asked her children what animal Jesus rode when He came into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday.

A boy replied, "The Easter Bunny!"

Two women were discussing pastors. One said, "My pastor is so good he can talk

on any subject for an hour." The other replied: "That's nothing. My pastor can talk for an hour without a subject."

Some people are kind, polite, and sweet — until you sit in their pew.

—From *The Joyful Noiseletter*

## Brochures available

Continued from page 1.

11:45 a.m. I am planning on some of our folks sharing some from this trip to Greece. There might even be a surprise involved! I hope to see you then.

Several folks have already expressed to Dr. Reggie and me that they are planning to make next year's trip to Oberammergau to see the Passion Play.

Stop by the Church Office for a brochure. You can help celebrate my birthday next year in Germany!



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## I Met the Master Face to Face

*I had walked life's way with an easy tread,  
Had followed where comforts and pleasures led,  
Until one day in a quiet place  
I met the Master face to face.  
With station and rank and wealth for my goal,  
Much thought for my body but none for my soul,  
I had entered to win in Life's mad race,  
When I met the Master face to face.  
I met Him and knew Him and blushed to see  
That His eyes full of sorrow were fixed on me.  
And I faltered and fell at His feet that day  
While my castles melted and vanished away.  
Melted and vanished, and in their place,  
Naught else did I see but the Master's face;  
And I cried aloud, "Oh, make me meek  
To follow the steps of Thy wounded feet."  
My thoughts are now for the souls of men;  
I lost my life but I found it again,  
E'er since one day in a quiet place  
I met the Master face to face.*

— Author Unknown

## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil and Jeff Keane



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# God sometimes defers our hopes

By Ann Clark

*Proverbs 13:12 — “Hope deferred makes the heart sick..”*

Last month we talked about “dead-ends” or “mountains” that rear up unexpectedly, and God shows up when least expected and gets us through. A miraculous moment.

This month we need to remember what it’s like to believe the promises of God and not see them realized. At least not in the way we hoped or expected. Oh, yes, we have experienced when God came through with joy, power, victory, peace, etc., and yet, we have experienced times when it appeared He wasn’t paying attention to us at all.

We have been taught, we heard, we believed, and we expected the promises of God as a goal to be obtained. And now, it seems like what we are experiencing isn’t promises but problems. Disappointments, shattered hopes, broken dreams — we’ve all had godly aspirations that never seemed to become reality. And over time, that affected us deeply. As the writer of Proverbs says, it can make our hearts sick.

That is why it is important to read the second half of this same proverb: “...but a dream fulfilled is a tree of life.” So, exactly how do these promises work. Do they just float down to us from heaven? Do they suddenly appear before us on a moonlit night? Or is it a process? Is there something God asks of us that will lead to the promises being realized? Are we really willing to trust and persevere with faith through these hard times and trials? The writer of Proverbs also warns, “It is pleasant to see dreams come true, but fools refuse to turn from evil to attain them.” (Prov. 13:19) Ouch!

Sometimes our Christian lives seem like we are on a roller coaster. We see victories, and that fuels our faith. But then we see a string of defeats. The cycle repeats itself, and we complain that we just can’t take any more up-and-down experiences. We begin to wonder, “If my faith is real, then why does it seem nonexist-

ent half the time?” At this point our hearts grow sick, and we stop pursuing God’s promises.

You just know it has to be a God-given desire, especially if your need is so urgent, and you are certain this has to be God’s will for you, your loved one, or one you are standing in the gap for. But nothing is happening, and then you doubt and began to wonder — is this truly God’s Will or just something fanciful I’m desiring.

Ever notice how it seems that a couple of the most common things that trip us up are:

**Hurt.** We step out in faith to pursue what we assume is a God-given desire or will, and then we are devastated when it doesn’t come to pass. It may be pursuit of a career, a certain relationship, or a bad experience with work or church. Emotions are damaged deeply, and we can’t seem to get past it. And we wonder again — where was God when I needed Him? There seems to be a great gulf between our expectations and our realities.

**Fear.** We are afraid we will fail, so we never step out at all. Maybe we have failed before in a big public way, and the shame of that is too much to overcome.

So, what has this month been like for you? What about this past week? Or even today? Are you tired, struggling, weary, and ready to give up or give in? When you’ve had a tough time, you may feel like a failure. However, God’s Word tell us that our difficult stretches may be a door to the greatest growth season in our lives. Hard to believe, but let me encourage you. Because when you are at your wit’s end — when you’ve exhausted all of your own resources — that’s when you turn fully to Jesus, acknowledging your need for Him — only Him, fully Him, all of Him. You are finally at the end of yourself and awaiting the fullness of God.

Have you ever been in this situation, crying out to see that “goodness of God” you’ve heard so much about? But your present situation is

the equivalent of you saying, “Lord, You say that You are a great provider, and I need You to show me quickly! I’m asking you to provide for me right now, for I’m in this desperate situation right now!” Ever felt like praying that? I have. But all you get is silence. Ever wonder why?

Perhaps this time of silence and waiting may be God waiting for you to consider just how good and faithful He has already been in blessing you. He has changed you, healed you, delivered you, rescued you and/or your family, given you a new job, answered your prayers, He provided for you financially time and time again, showering you with blessing upon blessing over the years. In fact, you have probably lived in God’s constant, nonstop, miraculous provision much of your life. Yet here you are still tempted to worry, fret, and doubt His faithfulness. How could it be possible that you would ever doubt God after all He has already proven to you? But we do.

Apparently this time of silence and waiting is a good time for us to stop and recount the blessings of God and express eternal gratefulness to Him. As we continually remind ourselves of God’s goodness in the past, and do whatever is necessary to maintain a thankful heart, hopefully we will avoid falling into the trap of becoming hardhearted and stiff-necked people. God has been good to each of us — and don’t ever let yourself forget it!

**Prayer** — Lord, I am so thankful for Your goodness in my life. The situations I have faced personally have put You to the test, and You have jumped at every chance to prove how good You are. Help me to recall all of Your promises that You have kept in the past. Help me always remember that you have proven Yourself to me again and again and help me remember You will never let me down. Your goodness to me has been constant and never-ending. Don’t let me doubt for a moment that You will meet this present need also in Your timing and with Your provision. I praise You and thank You for loving me so much!

# Temple Baptist Church

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## Congratulations!!!

### April Birthdays

- |                     |                        |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 Richard Moore     | 14 Charles Beck        | 21 Drake Mills         |
| 3 Sherry Jones      | 14 John Stozier        | 21 Mary Frances Colvin |
| 4 Carolyn Sumrall   | 16 David Darland       | 21 Donny Sanders       |
| 5 Allen Lee         | 16 Jan Grigsby         | 22 Hilda Grafton       |
| 6 Elaine DeBerry    | 17 Don Mears           | 23 Hilda Estes         |
| 6 Deborah Sanders   | 18 Mack Estes          | 25 Stanley Crawford    |
| 6 Bill Whittenburg  | 18 Margaret Farley     | 25 Gene Lueg           |
| 8 Margaret Thompson | 18 Rodney Johnson      | 26 Buddy Terzia        |
| 10 Bodie Woods      | 18 Joan Minn           | 27 Myrtis Orr          |
| 11 John Mitchell    | 18 Janice Beasley-Irby | 27 Connie Acklin       |
| 12 Vernaghn Scott   | 20 Donnie Parkman      | 29 Leonard Faulkner    |
| 13 Linda Spivey     | 21 Vicki Hogan         |                        |

### April Anniversaries

- |                                     |                                   |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 3 Pat and Joann Barlow (1954)       | 6 Mary Jane and Dick Lewis (1956) |
| 3 Debbie and Ronnie Holloway (1971) | 13 Myrtis and Virgil Orr (1945)   |

*If you would like your birthday and/or anniversary added to the lists published each month in Senior Heartbeat, please call the Church Office (255-3745).*