

Inside Wyoming

The Newsletter of the Wyoming Ave. Baptist Church

Vol. 18, No. 3, March 30, 2003

FROM THAT TIME JESUS BEGAN TO SHOW TO HIS DISCIPLES THAT HE MUST GO TO JERUSALEM, AND SUFFER MANY THINGS FROM THE ELDERS AND CHIEF PRIESTS AND SCRIBES, AND BE KILLED, AND BE RAISED THE THIRD DAY. THEN JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES, "IF ANYONE DESIRES TO COME AFTER ME, LET HIM DENY HIMSELF, AND TAKE UP HIS CROSS AND FOLLOW ME. FOR WHOEVER DESIRES TO SAVE HIS LIFE WILL LOSE IT, BUT WHOEVER LOSES HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE WILL FIND IT. FOR WHAT PROFIT IS IT TO A MAN IF HE GAINS THE WHOLE WORLD AND LOSES HIS OWN SOUL? OR WHAT WILL A MAN GIVE IN EXCHANGE FOR HIS SOUL?"

MATTHEW 16 : 21, 24-26

The Son of Man Must Suffer

About this time a little less than 2,000 years ago, Jesus prepared for his journey to Jerusalem for Passover. But this was to be no ordinary Passover. As he traveled from town to town, teaching about the kingdom of God and healing the sick, he began to teach his followers something new, something they weren't happy to hear. Matthew (chapter 16, starting at verse 21) tells us Jesus "began to show to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day."

The disciples didn't fully understand what Jesus was saying, particularly about

being raised. Peter, having just acknowledged Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God, turned Jesus aside and actually rebuked him, saying, "Far be it from you, Lord; this shall not happen to You!" But Jesus knew this indeed was the will of God, and set Peter in his place with perhaps the strongest rebuke Jesus ever leveled: "Get behind me, Satan! You are an offense to me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men." Truly, the Son of Man must suffer.

Jesus did suffer horrible cruelty those many years ago. Betrayed for money by a purported friend and forsaken by those who loved him, Jesus was illegally arrested and unfairly tried, accused by liars of crimes he did not commit, and sentenced to death by a governor who cared more about popular opinion than he did about justice. A crown of thorns was forced onto his head, and he was mocked and spit on. He was subjected to a beating which would sometimes kill a man, and then he suffered the greatest cruelty of all. Jesus Christ was nailed to a cross to die. These are the things Christians remember as we approach Easter, particularly on Good Friday.

Although the disciples did not understand it at the time, as he promised, Jesus rose from the dead on the third day, and so shall we who believe be raised like

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Inside Wyoming is published by and for the members and friends of the Wyoming Avenue Baptist Church.

Contributions of articles and information are most welcome! Contact the editor, Walter Rice, Jr., at 215-820-0165.

Sue Brodish Visits Sunday Bible School

by Debby Crockett

On Sunday, March 16, Sue Brodish, a missionary to Germany, whom we support, visited Wyoming to show and tell us what she does and to share with us some of the work God is doing in Germany. Sue runs a full-fledged Christian Kindergarten, where children who otherwise may not hear the gospel are taught about God at a very young age.

We learned that these young children in her class did more physical play and learning activities than we were used to in school. The older kids at Sunday Bible School may have thought it odd that we were looking at pictures of kindergarteners, and were especially surprised to see that in Germany little kids do gym in their underwear! Our kids were impressed to see the men from the army helping to build the playground.

They learned to find Germany on the map, and we sang "God is So Good" in German, which they noticed right away sounded an awful lot like English - "Gott ist so gut, Er ist gut zu mir" - which means "God is so good, He is good to me." So the fact that



Sue Brodish (third from left in the back) and the SBS kids, teachers, and parents. Photograph by Becky Crockett (obviously not pictured!)

many English words were borrowed from German was learned too.

When "Miss Sue" went upstairs to speak in the morning service, the kids made posters showing the world globe with the words of John 3:16 below it. This was to remind them that God indeed sent His Son for the whole world, including people in Germany where Miss Sue works, in Togo where our other missionary friend Miss Beky works, as well as in our neighborhood.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Hands of Christ Homeless Ministry

by Joel Rice
photograph by Paul Vernaza

Earlier this year, the winter retreat of *Campus Crusade for Christ* found its members on the streets of New York City ministering to the homeless with NYSUM, The New York School of Urban Ministry. Upon returning to Penn, some members of "Crusade" (along with a few interested individuals from *InterVarsity Christian Fellowship*) felt that there was a need for such a ministry at the University of Pennsylvania, and started "Hands of Christ."

On the first Friday of February, we made our first excursion into Center City. We prepared brown-bag lunches and drove around Center City and the Rittenhouse Square area, stopping to minister to homeless people as we passed them. We gave them each a bagged lunch (or two) and

distributed clothing and blankets as we were able. Now that it is much warmer, clothing needs have greatly changed.

It became cumbersome to drive around Center City and minister from a car, so recently we have utilized mainly public transit. This entails a lot of walking, but is more effective in finding people. On a given



and were glad for the food. Most of them were receptive to the tracts we were handing out, and all but one were willing to have us pray for them. The picture you see here was taken a few weeks ago outside the WaWa at 20th and Chestnut, and shows me and my roommate Paul Greenham with Bruce, Derek, and Frank.

While we primarily distribute food and clothing (we don't carry any cash) and Bible tracts, sometimes we can meet peculiar needs. We met David in an alley as he was searching through a dumpster for useful items. It was very dark, and I happened to have an extra flashlight handy (go figure!), so we left David with a flashlight so he could more safely rummage through the dumpsters. Not only did David let us pray for him, but he also prayed for us.

Some things you can pray for Hands of Christ are that we would find dedicated volunteers so that we can continue our ministry on a regular basis, as well as more official support from one or more of the local churches.

If you're interested in helping out or donating supplies, contact Joel Rice. We can use many items, including peanut butter, jelly, sandwich bags, juice boxes, tee-shirts, socks, and many similar items.

Friday night, a team may expect to walk anywhere from 3-6 miles. Hopefully this distance will be reduced as more people become involved and each team covers a smaller area.

This past Friday night, Walt, my friend Paul Vernaza, and I went out and met about 8 men on the streets. They all welcomed us



IN LOVING MEMORY OF H O W A R D T E A L L,

who went home to his Lord peacefully in his sleep

on Sunday March 2nd, 2003.

He leaves behind, to join him at a later date, his wife Sarah, three children, Susan, Thomas and Kathy, six grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren. Howard was an active person his whole life, active in his home church, "Wyoming" ever since he was baptized in the late 1920s or early 30s, active in playing his trombone, active in his employment, and active in his family life.

While a youngster at "Wyoming" he learned to play the trombone from the father of Mr. Robert T. Smith. (Bob Smith was the trumpet-playing father of Mildred Emrich and Ethel Schimpf) He played regularly in our services and often provided special music. As a youth he was a student in Mrs. Anna DeYoung-Bennett's Sunday school class. Later on, he served as a Deacon for a number of years, until 1958 when he moved his family to New Jersey, and soon united with the Berlin Baptist Church, where he became active until he died. He often favored the congregation with his trombone in more recent years when Sarah was asked to play the organ during our organist's vacation.

His trombone played a major role in his life outside the church, as well as inside. He



formed and directed his own band, which he called the *Howard Teall Shades of Blue*, and over his many years, also played in five other bands.

During World War II, Howard served in the armed forces. After some studies at Michigan State University, he became a communications specialist for the Army in the South Pacific. He didn't neglect his trombone, however, because for at least part of his tour of duty, he was selected to be a member of an Army Band.

Howard was enthusiastically employed, in his spare time it would seem for all his busy-ness otherwise, as the office manager and traffic manager of the Blanchard Lumber Company in Camden NJ. In retirement, he worked part-time for Acme Markets until just two years ago.

His funeral service was held Friday, March 7, with hundreds paying their last respects. Two of his favorite hymns were sung, *How Great Thou Art* and *What a Friend We Have in Jesus*.

The Son Must Suffer, *cont'd from page 2*

him to eternal life. We shall be like Christ in his resurrection; Jesus was the firstfruits, and all those who trust in him shall enter with him into glory.

But what of the death of Christ? Do we share in that as well? Indeed we do, says the apostle Paul. "For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin" (Romans 6:5-6, NKJV). As Jesus gave up all what was his by right, and subjected himself to death, so must we give up our "rights," be subject to our Lord and die to sin.

Jesus suffered, died, and rose again. We have seen, working backwards, that we will also rise, and that we also must die (to sin). It is easy to look to the future when we shall be joined with Christ in Heaven. It is more difficult to consider that we must die to sin. But what I think is most difficult to realize is that not only do we share in his resurrection and death, but we are also called to share in his suffering.

I don't know what this means yet, as I'm only beginning to understand it. But I do know that Jesus says, "If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." Give it thought.

by Walter Rice, Jr.

Easter Baptism Service Planned...

Wyoming is looking forward to our Easter worship service on April 20, when at least one, and perhaps three people, will be baptized, publicly professing their faith in Jesus. This is an important step in the life of any Christian. Be sure to join us as we celebrate both the resurrection of our Lord and the salvation of our fellow members of the family of God. This would also be an excellent opportunity to invite your friends.

Praying in Wartime, *cont'd from page 8*

As Ryken urges, pray for the physical safety of the soldiers, for God is the great protector. Pray for their mental strength, over confusion and disorder, over death and destruction, for God is the source of all our strength.

Pray for their emotional comfort, that God would comfort them in the loneliness of being away from their families, and in the isolation that war brings. And pray for the spiritual well-being of the soldiers. Many of them do not know God, and this is a time when God can work mightily to bring men and women to himself.

There is so much more to pray for - the leaders of our nation, the Christians in Iraq, even the missionaries and evangelists poised to spread the gospel in Iraq as soon as they are able. In all things pray as Jesus taught us, "Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven." For indeed God can and will use even this for his own glory.

PRAYER CORNER

Praying in Wartime

Philip Ryken, Pastor of Tenth Presbyterian Church in Philadelphia, wrote recently that “like the rest of the really difficult things in life, there is nothing we can really do about the war, except to pray.” The question then is what do we pray for?

The first thing, obviously, is peace. Whether through necessary war or diplomatic negotiation, peace ought to be the end to which we look. It is peace that Christ will establish when he returns

to reign; it is peace that we should pray for now, particularly in Iraq. The peace we seek must be one where justice prevails, where people can live in safety and in freedom.

The second is for those who are fighting in the war. Not just for the soldiers of the United States, but for those of all nations who are engaged in this battle. War has significant and lasting effects on a person. The sights of violent and gruesome death are images that do not easily fade from memory.

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LET
US
SING HIS
PRAISES