

Laurel Church of Christ

Family Focus

December 3, 2023

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HATS OFF TO RATTLESNAKES

By Leroy Brownlow

Once upon a time there was a family of wayward members of the church who had lost interest and fallen away. There was a father and three sons, Jim and John, and Sam. The elders had talked with them about their lost condition. The preacher had done everything within reason that he could think of to lead them to repentance. Many of the brethren had tried to encourage them but nothing seemed to help in the least.

One day when the boys were out in the pasture, a large rattlesnake bit John and he became very ill. The physician was called and after an examination, he pronounced that John was in very critical condition. Said he, "About the only thing left now is prayer. You had better call the elders and your preacher at once." Acting upon this advice, the old man called the preacher, and in tears told him of John's condition and urged him to gather the elders and come to John's bedside as soon as possible. The preacher arrived in due time and was asked to lead the prayer for John's recovery. This is what he prayed:

"Oh wise and righteous Father, we thank Thee that Thou in Thy wisdom sent this rattlesnake to bite John in order to bring him to his senses. He has not been inside the church house for years, and it is very doubtful that in all this time felt any need of prayer until now. Now we trust that this will lead him to genuine repentance. And now our Father, wilt Thou send another to bite Sam, and another to bite Jim, and another BIG ONE to bite the old man? We have all been doing everything we knew for years to restore them but to no avail. It seems, therefore, that what all combined efforts would not do, this rattlesnake has done. We thus conclude that the only thing left that will do this family any good is rattlesnakes. So Lord, send us bigger and better rattlesnakes. In the name of Jesus, Amen."

**He has granted to us His precious
and magnificent promises. 2 Peter 1:4**

Pray for the sick: You may not know some of them but God knows them and their needs, so let's lift them up to Him!

CONTINUING CONCERNS: Terry Hastings, Sandi Holt, Pat Tucker, Myra's sister, Connie; Norma Hudson, Ruth Banks, Tracy Moran, Ashley Cox.

On-going personal Bible studies

World turmoil; people of Russia, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza

Cipolla family

"Celebrate Recovery"

AIM missionaries, Carolina Aguilar, Miguel Javier

Dale and Maddy

Latin American Missions

Debbie Revel (Cassie's mother, cancer)

Coleman family as they care for Kenny's parents

Karen Sowell; medical procedure Nov. 29

Sue Banks (Jean's niece)

Brenda Pepper; continued prayers

Thankfulness every day for everything God gives us

CELEBRATE RECOVERY each Monday evening from 6-8 in the FLC.

WOMEN'S STUDIES— Apostle Paul study Fridays at Cathy's, coffee and fellowship 10:30, study at 11:00. Ladies' Tuesday evening Zoom study at 7:00 pm.

CHRISTMAS TEA AND ORNAMENT EXCHANGE will be Dec. 9 at 12:00 in the FLC. RSVP to Julie by Dec. 2 or sign up on the sheet in the foyer. Bring a wrapped Christmas ornament to exchange.

NEW YEAR'S EVE GAME NIGHT will be returning on Sunday, Dec. 31 at 6:00 in the FLC. Devotional at 6:00 followed by food, board games and card games as well as the 2nd annual Cornhole Tournament! Bring games, food, snacks for lots of fun as we welcome the new year together.

MEN TO SERVE;

Welcome/Scripture; 12/3-David; 12/10-Bobby Prayer; 12/3-Bobby; 12/10-Julio Table; 12/3-Dale; 12/10-Shawn Song Leader; 12/3-Daniel; Troy Announcements/Closing prayer; Christian-Dec.

Opportunities for study and worship

Sunday: (In person and virtually at: www.laurelcoc.org)

Bible Classes 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday:

Women's Zoom Study 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Men's prayer (Shawn's) 7:30 a.m.

Bible Study at building 6:30 p.m.

Friday ladies' Paul study 10:30 a.m.

We invite you to attend any of our service times, and we look forward to welcoming you, and pray that you might find a home here with us in Laurel and with God in heaven as His child.

If you need Media help — connections, addresses, or general questions contact: Don Trader or Julio Brennick

WHO WE ARE

The body of Christ in Laurel, Delaware is a family of believers knit together in love (Colossians 2:2), striving to serve God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24) and carrying the gospel to the lost (Matthew 28:18). We are an autonomous body with Christ only as our head, and elders shepherding the flock of God (Acts 20:28).

We have been entrusted with the gospel (I Thessalonians 2:4) and so it is that we speak. The congregation seeks to uphold the doctrine and practice of the first century church using the only true standard, the Bible, as our guide (2 Peter 1:3). It is our prayer that all would come to a knowledge of the truth and partake in that divine fellowship in the body of Christ, being immersed for the remission of sins, and beginning life anew with Christ as Lord (Acts 2:38, Romans 6:1). Our plea is that we might be one in Christ, and serve the Lord faithfully unto death to receive our crown (Revelation 2:10).