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November 2011

## Fellowship of Christian Lumbermen

### FCL Enjoys Successful Meeting at NHLA Convention

#### In this issue:

A Red Letter Day	2
How to Know Jesus	2
Confession	3
All of Creation	4
Prayer Requests/ Praise Reports	4
Contact Info	5

#### BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED

We are looking for God-fearing, bible-believing men and women to fill vacant positions on the board of directors. To qualify, you must be a member of FCL in good standing, and willing to serve on one of the committees. Candidates must also submit a brief, written testimony about their faith. If you are interested in serving, please contact a current board member (contact info on page 5).

More than 30 members and friends of the Fellowship of Christian Lumbermen had an encouraging and enjoyable meeting at the NHLA convention in Nashville on Friday, September 23. Our guest speaker, the Reverend Dr. G. Christopher Scruggs, senior pastor of Advent Church in Cordova, TN, gave a message entitled "From the Law Firm to the Church, from the Church to the World. His wife Kathy also led the group in a few songs that, according to Wayne Miller of Miller Publishing, "really centered and focused the gathering." Thanks go out to David Caldwell, Hardwood Market Report, for inviting Dr. and Mrs. Scruggs.



Cliff Nelson, Jacobs Team, Rev. and Mrs. Scruggs, and David Caldwell, Hardwood Market Report



Rob McCarthy, ITL, and Scott Anderson, Great Lumber



Dave Redmond, Highland Hardwood Sales, Ron Jones, Ron Jones Hardwoods, and Mark Barford, NHLA



Doug Keele, Wood-Mizer, Marty James, Penn-Sylvan International, Jim Bartelson, Blue Book Services, and Wayne Miller, Miller Publishing

## A Red Letter Day

By Ken Stubert, KFS Management Services

Recently I read the gospels in a little different way. I decided to only read the words of Jesus and just enough surrounding verses to understand the place and setting. Using a red letter edition made this easy. I also read it as prose rather than studying each passage. In other words, I read like I would read a book—not lingering over each phrase, reference, time and place—but to enjoy and understand as I would any good novel.

It was an eye-opening experience. I was struck by the simple nature of Jesus' words, regardless of the audience. He didn't use complex words, multiple adjectives or say the same things three or four times to get the point across, but rather used simple, straightforward language that the masses could easily understand and apply to their lives.

Except for the Beatitudes, which served as a basis for much of His other teachings, Jesus would usually address one issue and make one point, although that single point worked on many different levels. This is particularly true of the parables, from which readers could take away many different lessons, with God providing the meaning and understanding. Jesus was frugal with His words, yet they were poignant and directly hit the heart of the matter. (There may be a lesson there

for many pastors who try to make multiple points—saying the same thing over and over again while trying to fill the entire time slot—instead of making one main point. The result is sometimes confusion and indifference.)

The other thing that struck me was Jesus' lack of references to specific scriptures. It's not that He didn't know them or think that they were unimportant, but since His ministry was to and for regular people, He did not confound them with detailed references or scholarly background. He spoke to people, not at them. His points were simply presented.

I think too often today, when we're presented with opportunities to minister to others, we beat ourselves up trying to recall chapter and verse, feeling that is the only way to sound credible and correct. But that's not usually the best way to minister to someone. They are seeking compassion, reassurance, understanding, forgiveness or any number of other things. They don't need to be told to read such-and-such, or that this is what the bible says in dah dah dah. They want and need empathy and love. This is where Jesus' ministry excelled. To illustrate, look at Luke 8:40-53. Here Jesus healed, told the bleeding woman that her faith healed her, told the ruler of the synagogue not to be

afraid but to believe, and revived a dead child...in eight short sentences. I'm not suggesting that any of us have the ability, wisdom and understanding of Jesus, but that we can better apply the lessons of His practical ministry in our lives.

Have you ever met someone that was so heavenly minded that they were no earthly good? They are so caught up in the study of God's word that they cannot apply it to their own lives, or help others. Don't fall into that trap!

Living your daily life as Christ would have you live is the best way to minister to others. You can offer examples from your life, witness to things you have seen, tell of everyday situations, put your arm around the person or hold their hand. Let the love of God pour from you just as the power came out of Jesus when the woman touched His robe. You don't need to always refer to the "right verse" when you have someone there, right now, that needs help. Talk to them as Christ talks to you: plainly, simply and lovingly.

Take a little time and read through the words of Christ. To me, it was an experience that helped make the ministry of Jesus, and therefore my ministry, simpler and easier to understand. Maybe you'll have a "Red Letter Day"—an epiphany—as I did.

### JESUS MAY RETURN TOMORROW BEGIN A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM TODAY

If you've never trusted in the Lord and you'd like to begin a personal relationship with Jesus, please pray this prayer: "Lord Jesus, I invite you into my life. I believe you died for me and that your blood pays for my sins and provides me with the gift of eternal life. By faith I receive that gift and acknowledge you as my Lord and Savior. Amen." If you've just made a decision for Christ, let someone in the Fellowship know so we can celebrate with you, and so we can help you develop a deep walk with Christ.

## Confession

By Larry Dykes, CS Forest Products

I recently attended a Christian men's conference, where one of the messages was about confession. Every one of us has certain areas we seem to struggle with over and over. We become frustrated as we stumble with the same sin yet again (Romans 7:15-25). We know that, as Christians, we are already forgiven by God's amazing grace. But there are practical steps we can take that will strengthen us where we are weak, and help us to grow in our relationship with our Lord.

I found this message excellent and personally helpful, so I thought I'd share a few points from the speaker:

### 1. Confession brings liberation from sin

—Be specific about the sin(s) we are confessing. Articulate it out loud, if possible. One reason is that our minds tend to wander when we silently pray. That doesn't tend to occur when we pray out loud.

—Confess every time we sin. You might say (I would) that if you went to God in prayerful confession every time you sinned, then you'd be praying all the time. Exactly! We would be praying without ceasing. (1 Thessalonians 5:17)

—Each time we confess, sin loosens its grip over us a bit. There is liberation from sin as we get into the habit of confession.

### 2. Confession gives us a deeper appreciation for God

—As we confess, we realize how short we fall from God's perfect standards. We become more aware of our total depravity and our dependence upon God.

—We praise Him and give thanks that by His grace He has already forgiven us (past, present and

future), because of the enormous price paid by our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.

### 3. Confession brings about circumcision from within (Deuteronomy 30:6)

—Over time, my heart becomes hard and callous as I hold onto sin.

—As we confess routinely and realize the depth of our sin, then sin begins to loosen its grip. God softens our hearts and we love Him more. (Luke 7:47)

—This also translates to us loving people more, as well as allowing them grace and mercy as we gain a deeper understanding of the great grace & mercy we have received. (Matthew 22:36-40, Micah 6:8)

It would be foolish of us to ever promise God, "I'll never do that again." Even though we have good intentions, our spirit is willing, but our flesh is weak (Matthew 26:41). We should set our minds and purpose our hearts not to sin, but we are flesh and we will sometimes fail. Simply confess those failures daily, even hourly, as they occur.

As I began to practice this, I found

it particularly beneficial in my life. It is true, as I articulate my sin(s) and am specific, that sin begins to loosen its grasp on me. God has already given us the victory. It is a much different thing operating under the power of the Holy Spirit, rather than me trying to do it by my sheer will power. My challenge is that I need to become diligent at practicing confession routinely.

My hope and prayer is that you might find something here that will be helpful in your walk with the Lord as well. Conversational prayer is critical and will help us to strengthen our relationship with God as He molds us into the Godly men and women He intends us to be (Ephesians 2:10). We can be men and women who serve our spouses, love our children and are examples of Jesus' love in our communities and places of business.

Finally, I'd like to share that I just celebrated my 21st wedding anniversary with my beautiful bride Cheryl on October 13. I'm so thankful God has given us 21 years together, as well as two wonderful daughters who love the Lord! Many Blessings!



Larry and Cheryl Dykes



## All of Creation

By Sharon Clevenger, NILCO

I'm in awe as I look at this earth that the Lord has given us. I love the changing of the seasons, which is one of the reasons I live in the snow belt of northwestern Pennsylvania. This fall, the leaves have been absolutely beautiful. I can imagine the joy of hunters as they go into the woods, sit in their tree stands and listen to the sounds of God's creation—the turkeys, squirrels, chipmunks, woodpeckers and maybe an owl, and then finally the snort of the deer as he makes his way into the clearing. I'm reminded of the song by Mercy Me: "All of Creation sing with me now; lift up your voice



and lay your burdens down. All of Creation sing with me now; lift up your voice and let His glory resound."

The God of heaven created all this, and on each day He stopped and surveyed all that He had made and

said, "It is good." And when He came down to the end of the sixth day, after He had made man in His own image, He said, "It is very good." How much He must love us to give us all these things to enjoy and the very things that provide for our every need: food, clothing, shelter and so much more.

How can one look at this glorious universe, this creation that God made to work in perfect harmony, and ever doubt that there is indeed a God in heaven, a creator of all mankind? And yes, He is worthy of our all of our praise and adoration. The psalmist was right. "How awesome are your works."

## PRAYER REQUESTS & PRAISE REPORTS

—Andy Johnson, Hardwood Publishing, requested prayer for Ronny Cornelius, JRC Lumber, TN, and for his entire family. Ronny's brother Kenny was in a logging accident on Sept 16 and passed away on Sept 30.

—Rob McCarthy, ITL, requested prayer for Brad Pope, ITL, and his family. Brad's 18-year-old son Riley died in a car accident on Oct 7.

—Pray for Ken Stubert, KFS Management Services, on the passing of his sister Mildred, who went to be with the Lord on Oct 17.

—Wayde Day, Independent Dispatch, requested prayer for Glenn Gilley, associate pastor of his church, who was involved in a serious motorcycle accident that resulted in a broken shoulder and ribs, and collapsed lung. Pray that he is recovering from his injuries.



***"But truly God has listened; He has attended to the voice of my prayer." (Psalm 66:19)***

—Leslie Goodman, Goodman and Sons Lumber, requested prayer for Paul Brooks, Quality Hardwoods, who had kidney transplant surgery on Oct 14, and his wife Liz, the donor. Paul had given his brother a kidney many years ago. Paul and Liz were doing well after surgery; continue to pray for full recovery.

—Join Leslie Goodman in praising God for answered prayers for his friend Pat Vannerson. Miraculously, the brain surgeons who operated on Pat on Oct 10 found that an aneurysm previously diagnosed was no longer there.

—Ron Artz, American Hardwood Industries, requested prayer for his daughter Susan. Just days before Susan started an internship in Brooklyn, NY, earlier this month, her housing arrangements fell through. Ron asked that we pray for a safe and viable living situation (if Susan hasn't already found one), and that she would feel the Lord's arms surrounding her during the move and transition from a town of 20,000 to a city of millions.

—Please pray for those who are out of work, struggling with addiction, or otherwise burdened, both within and outside of the lumber industry.

**The Fellowship of  
Christian Lumbermen**

Serving Christ in the Lumber  
Industry

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# Fellowship of Christian Lumbermen Membership Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Enclosed are dues in the amount of \$20 (make checks payable to the Fellowship of Christian Lumbermen)

\_\_\_\_ I cannot afford dues, but would like to become a member

\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is an extra \$\_\_\_\_ to help with the work of this ministry

Please send this form to:  
The Fellowship of Christian Lumbermen  
5831 105<sup>th</sup> Place N.E.  
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Please include any prayer requests you have:

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Please include any suggestions you have:

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