

BLODGETT CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Time of Services:

Sunday: 10:00 A.M. class, 11:00 A.M. worship, and 6:00 P.M. worship Wednesday: 7:00 P.M. class

Preacher:

Larry Black (cell) 903-588-4253 email: lblk@peoplescom.net

Youth Leaders:

Heath & Carla Hines 903-717-1423 email: hhines@hotmail.com

Benevolence – Rick Toland: 903-220-9825 Evangelism - Heath Hines: 903-717-1423 Edification - H. L. Robertson: 903-856-5461 Building Maintenance – Mark Sharpin 903-573-3993 Grounds & Van - John D. Porter: 903-563-5945 Finance - Larry Reynolds: 903-767-0742

Wednesday Devotional Speaker: Randy Ballard Van Driver for February: Bill Money



BLODGETT CHURCH of CHRIST Bulletin

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Saving the Geese

There was once a man who didn't believe in God, and he didn't hesitate to let others know how he felt about religion and religious holidays. His wife, however, did believe, and she raised their children to also have faith in God and His Son Jesus despite their father's disparaging comments.

One snowy eve, his wife was taking their children to service in the farm community in which they lived. They were to talk about Jesus' birth. She asked him to come, but he refused.

"That story is nonsense!" he said. "Why would God send His Son to come to earth as a man? That's ridiculous!" So she and the children left, and he stayed home.

A while later the winds grew stronger, and the snow turned into a blizzard. As the man looked out the window, all he saw was a blinding snowstorm. He sat down to relax before the fire for the evening. Then he heard a loud thump. Something had hit the window. He looked out but couldn't see more than a few feet. When the snow let up a little, he ventured outside to see what could have been beating on his window.

In the field near his house, he saw a flock of wild geese. Apparently they had been flying south for the winter when they got caught in the snowstorm and couldn't go on. They were lost and stranded on his farm with no food or shelter. They just flapped their wings and flew around the field in low circles, blindly and aimlessly. A couple of them had flown into his window, it seemed.

The man felt sorry for the geese and wanted to help them. The barn would be a great place for them to stay, he thought. It's warm and safe; surely they could spend the night and wait out the storm. So he walked over to the barn and opened the doors wide, then watched and waited, hoping they would notice the open barn and go inside.

But the geese just fluttered around aimlessly and didn't seem to notice the barn or realize what it could mean for them. The man tried to get their attention, but that just seemed to scare them, and they moved further away. He went into the house and came back with some bread, broke it up, and made a bread crumb trail leading to the barn. They still didn't catch on.

Now he was getting frustrated. He got behind them and tried to "shoo" them

toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered in every direction except toward the barn. Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn where they would be warm and safe.

"Why don't they follow me?!" he exclaimed. "Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm?" He thought for a moment and realized that they just wouldn't follow a human. "If only I were a goose, then I could save them," he said out loud.

Then he had an idea. He went into barn, got one of his own geese, and carried it in his arms as he circled around behind the flock of wild geese. He then released it. His goose flew through the flock and straight into the barn -- and one-by-one, the other geese followed it to safety.

He stood silently for a moment as the words he had spoken a few minutes earlier replayed in his mind: "If only I were a goose, then I could save them!" Then he thought about what he had said to his wife earlier. "Why would God want His Son to be like us? That's ridiculous!"

Suddenly it all made sense. That is what God had done. We were like the geese -- blind, lost, and perishing. God had sent His Son to become like us so He could show us the way and save us.

As the winds and blinding snow died down, his soul became quiet and pondered this wonderful thought. Suddenly he understood why Christ had come. Years of doubt and disbelief vanished with the passing storm. He fell to his knees in the snow, and prayed his first prayer: "Thank You, God, for sending Jesus to come in human form to get me out of the storm!" (via Sandie Martin)

Puzzling questions:

- If people evolved from apes, why are there still apes?
- Why is it that no matter what color bubble bath you use, the bubbles are always white?

If at first you don't succeed, try reading the instructions. Proverbs 4:13

Your temper is like a fire. It gets very destructive when it gets out of control. Proverbs 25:28

Your companions are like the buttons on an elevator. They will either take you up or they will take you down. Proverbs 13:20

"Let us restore in 2024."

Family News

- **Bill Money** had nose surgery last week and is very sore in his recovery process.
- **Nina Wharton,** Susan Dennis' mother, remains in the hospital after falling and breaking her hip.
- **Robert and Pat Slone** are celebrating their Thursday's 50th wedding anniversary today.
- We will have a covered-dish luncheon following this morning's service.
- Wednesday night will be singing night.
- HRR pantry item for February is laundry soap.

Upcoming Events

- Beginning today, the church in Pattonville is hosting a gospel meeting with Otis Knight speaking.
- We are to deliver the devotional at the Mt. Vernon House next Sunday, Feb. 11 at 2 p.m.

You don't have a soul. You are a soul. You have a body. - C. S. Lewis

<u>Lighter Side:</u>

When my daughter, Kelli, said her bedtime prayers, she would bless every family member, every friend, and every animal (current and past). For several weeks after we had finished the nightly prayer, Kelli would say, "And all girls." This soon became part of her nightly routine to include this closing. My curiosity got the best of me, and I asked her, "Kelli, why do you always add the part about all girls? "Her response, "Because everybody always finishes their prayers by saying 'All Men'!"

Take one day at a time. Separate worries from concerns. If a situation is a concern, find out what God would have you do and let go of the anxiety. If you can't do anything about a situation, forget it.

(Philippians 4:6) Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.