



## SOME CHRISTIANS “HOLD THEIR BREATH”

Rob L. Whitacre

Have you ever seen a child hold his breath to get his own way? What about a player who quits the team because he didn't get the starting position? Both of these are clear examples of selfish and self-centered immaturity. Surprisingly, there are those who spiritually imitate this childish behavior. They don't hold their breath during the worship assembly or outright quit if things don't go their way, but their behavior has striking parallels.

### They refuse to participate in worship.

They won't sing (Ephesians 5:19). They won't give (I Corinthians 16:1-2). They won't pray (Acts 2:42). If they're teaching, they might excuse themselves. If they serve or lead in public worship, they might ask to be removed from the list. Be sure, they will do anything and everything to let others know they are upset about "something."

### They cut their giving.

The most classic sign of immaturity lies in the collection plate. Some will lessen their offering, while others will cut it out all together. They hope this will make their point, although most of us don't know what it is. The only people who suffer are the elders and other Christians. Evangelism, benevolence, and all other works of the Church suffer due to lack of funds. Some have to cut their giving out of need but many do it out of choice. It is worthy to note that Paul calls giving "the proof of your love..." and not used as a mark of approval (II Cor.8:24).

### They become delinquent in attendance.

They don't want to quit altogether, but they do want others to know they are displeased. So instead of going to that person or the eldership about the "problem", they will become sporadic in attendance. Some will be missing in action for a few weeks while others will jump around from congregation to congregation. The horrible example set before others (including their children) are of little concern. The majority of the congregation is left in the dark concerning the reason for this behavior.

### They complain to selective members.

Complainers seldom go to the elders or the one they believe has sinned, but instead go to friends, family, or other sympathizers. They talk behind the preacher's back, throw accusations at the elders, and say hurtful things about other members, never ceasing to murmur and complain. God's Word is ignored or forgotten altogether (Pro 15:1; I Cor 6:7; Gal 6:1; I Tim 5:19). Building a support group appears to be their only concern, not realizing or possibly not caring about the inevitable division that will be created and the countless people they will hurt. Some are mortally wounded by the "tantrums", and leave the Lord's church never to return.

Why do some engage in such behavior? Because these tactics usually work in their favor. Their parents gave in when they held their breath, and they expect the Lord's church to do the same. In reality, they are spiritual babes refusing to obey Matthew 18:15-17. Their behavior is self-destructive and is celebrated by the Devil and his angels, bringing the Lord and His people to tears.

If you choose to "hold your breath" as a Child of God, there are three things that will occur:

- you will hurt yourself
- you will hurt others
- you will die spiritually. The best thing for the "oxygen deprived" is to take a deep breath and put the Lord's church before ourselves (Matthew 6:33).

*"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. (Galatians 5:15-16)*



# The Highlighter

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### Elders

Tim Fulmer  
Glen Grubbs  
Russell Smelser

### Ministers

Mike Brooks  
Ben Hayes  
Michael Jackson

### Secretary

Rhonda Cole

### Contact

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### SERVICE SCHEDULE:

#### SUNDAY:

9:00am Bible Class  
10:00am Worship  
4:30pm Prayer Session  
5:00pm Worship

#### WEDNESDAY:

7:00pm Bible Class

### The Record You Help Make

Bible Class .....214  
AM Worship .....298  
PM Worship ..... 195  
Contribution..... \$ 12,201  
Child Care..... \$ 107



## DO DIFFICULT DEEDS

I have challenged the teenagers to stretch their limits this year and to do more difficult things than they ever imagined. I want them to step out of the comfort zone this year. I know that if they will they will find that God can do more with their lives than they ever thought possible. I want to make the same challenge to each of you at Highland Park. Do something you have never done before for God. Teach a class, do a Wednesday night invitation, study the Bible with a friend who is not a Christian, lead a song, get an outreach project started. Stretch your faith in 2011. For that matter stretch your faith every year that you have left on this earth. Read these quotes. Put them on your mirror at home or your dashboard in your car to remind you to do difficult deeds.

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"I long to accomplish a great and noble task, but it is my chief duty to accomplish small tasks as if they were great and noble." — Helen Keller

"Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no help at all." — Dale Carnegie

**"And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him."**

Hebrews 11:6

"The greatest barrier to success is the fear of failure." — Sven Goran Eriksson

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

Theodore Roosevelt

**"My grace is sufficient for you, for power is perfected in weakness."**

Jesus, quoted in 2 Corinthians 12:9

**"For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline." — 2 Timothy 1:7**

Ben



**Sick:** Mike Farris has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. Austin Davenport will be going to New Jersey Tuesday to see a surgeon about heart surgery. Ann Hargett has been released. Betty Barnes will undergo cancer surgery on her eye Thursday, Jan 13th in Birmingham. Keith Jones (Heather Morgan's father) fell from a tree stand and broke his leg. Howard Jeffreys has been diagnosed with inoperative cancer. Vicki Henson (Jonathan's mother) is recovering from surgery at Jonathan's home. Sonny Watkins (Jerri's friend) is in Cypress Cove on Alabama St. in room 12B. Sarah Walker (Robin Hollimon's Co-work's sister) had a stillborn baby 2 weeks before Christmas. Sarah was diagnosed with cancer Wednesday. Sarah's father, Jody Pigg is a member at Sherrod Ave. David Hargett is in Nashville to have a pet scan.

### A recap of Roy Thompson's condition:

On Monday, we saw Dr. Cantrell, an orthopedic surgeon in Madison for a second opinion. He recommended opening up the incision; flushing out the infected areas, and to consult with an infectious control specialist.

On Tuesday, we saw Dr. Joiner. He does not want to open up the leg at this point for fear that it won't heal back to its present state. We asked him to follow up on the culture that was taken by the Wound Healing Center in Florence on December 30th. That culture grew out Staph infection. The culture done on December 16th grew out the same infection that developed following the second surgery. So now, we're dealing with 2 infections.

On Thursday, we saw Dr. Harris, who is an infectious control specialist in Decatur. He recommended going back on intravenous antibiotics for a minimum of four weeks and re-evaluate the situation then.

All three doctors agree that he will never be free of the infections as long as the metal devices are in place. Even if and when they can be removed, his knee will continue to be infected; therefore, he will have to remain on antibiotics for the rest of his life.

We're going to Keller this morning to have another PICC line inserted for the I.V. He is handling the situation fairly well most days. Please continue to pray for us. We love you all and thank you for all you've done for us.

Barbara

## CLEWISTON MISSION - July 14-23

Please sign up at the youth board ASAP. The cost should be very similar to last year. Details to follow.

## Challenge Youth Conference

If you an adult who is attending the conference, you need to turn in your registration money now.



**Elders/Deacons Meeting**  
Sunday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>  
at 3:30

### General Men's Meeting

(For all the men)

Sunday, January 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:30  
following PM Worship

### Note...

I will be out of the office Tuesday afternoon for a doctor's appointment. You may text or leave voice messages on my cell phone and I'll return your calls. 256-627-3208 Rhonda

Everyone is encouraged to go by the library window and read a letter from one of our supported missionaries in Nepal. You will enjoy it!

**We are invited to a party for Blanche Horsman to celebrate her 90th birthday at the Mars Hill congregation Feb 15th from 1:30 - 3:00.**



**Baby Shower!**  
There will be a baby shower for Cody McGill Sunday, January 16th in the Tea Room from 1:30 - 3:00.

Cody is registered at Target, Josey Ella, and The Baby's Room. All the ladies are invited. See Janet Moon for details.

### THOSE TO SERVE

#### 10:00 AM WORSHIP

Read Scripture..... Mitch Morris  
Opening Prayer..... Montey Gaisser  
Closing Prayer..... Benjamin Crump

#### 5:00 PM SERVICE

Read Scripture...Michael Weddington  
Opening Prayer..... Donnie Linley  
Closing Prayer..... Tim McCollum

Greeters..... Grant & Sheila Azbell  
Building Lockup ..... Michael South

#### JANUARY CONTACT ELDER

Glenn Grubbs



### Prayer Lists:

Mabeth Jones, Pauline Jackson, Harvey Hasha, Lois Black, Norma Martin, Rayburn Moore (Melinda Logan's brother-in-law), Wylodean Dabbs, Vic & Margaret Addington, Opal Farris, Guy Jeffreys, Austin & Betty Davenport, Rudolph & Christine Kirchner, Jimmy & Olene Hanback

### Please remember our cancer patients:

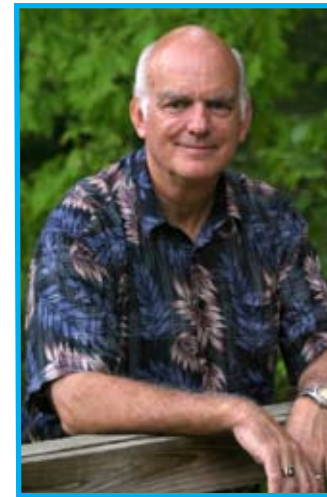
Robin McCollum, Delmar Weems, Brenda Pettus, Howard Jeffreys  
Adrian West (Robin McCollum's mother), Kenneth Harrison (Dot Crowden's brother), Becky Mays (Joyce Rose's friend), Rebecca Woodall (Anna Phillips' friend), David Blazer, Ann Hargett, Betty Barnes, Mike Farris  
Jean Rodes (Dorenda's aunt) Carrie Crosby (Laronda's friend) Mozelle King (Faye Smith's friend) Norma Hallmark (B Thompson's sister-in-law) Spruell Fretwell (Faye Smith's cousin)

### Widows & Singles

Will meet at Quizno's tonight after worship!



Pantry item Cereal



### Observatons

As I write this article on Friday morning the weather forecast calls for snow again on Sunday. I have been scheduled twice in December to report on our most recent trip to South Asia, and cancelled both times due to inclement weather and resulting smaller attendance. I had hoped for all who would like to see this report to have that opportunity. We have had a rather severe winter however, by Alabama standards at least, and it shows no indication of relenting soon.

For this reason I have decided to give my report this Sunday night (tonight as you read this), regardless of weather. I pray that all can attend. We had a great trip and there is much to share with you about it.

Michael Jackson has been asked by the elders to schedule speakers for each Sunday assembly and the Wednesday evening devotionals.

He has done an outstanding job of this. The Highland Park staff and other men of the congregation will be speaking for the next few months on a rotating basis. There will also be a few outside speakers, including Larry Davenport on January 23.

February 12-13 will be the dates of a Leadership Workshop featuring Jerry Barber. He will meet with Highland Park's leadership on Saturday, sharing his expertise on the topic, then speak at all assemblies on Sunday. Jerry and I were classmates at David Lipscomb. He was an excellent student then, and has had an outstanding career as a local evangelist since. Jerry has also held many meetings and workshops throughout the years. He has made a specialty of leadership, crisis management and similar topics. Make your plans to attend on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

MEB



## The Jaws Of Death And The Jaws Of Life

Four-year-old Donovan Hasseman, of Dover, Ohio, decided to climb into his family's top-loading washing machine last Sunday night. Fortunately the machine was not running. Wedged up against the agitator with one knee folded against his chest, he began screaming for deliverance. His mother tried to wriggle him out, but he could not move. What started out as a great adventure suddenly turned into the little guy's worst nightmare.

His mom called 911. Firefighters arrived but could not extricate him.

Then they phoned an expert - the owner of an appliance store - for advice on taking the machine apart. In the end, the firefighters used hydraulic 'jaws of life' to cut through the metal and plastic and free Donovan. He was taken to the hospital where he was examined and given a "clean" bill of health. The hospital staff also gave him a little stuffed bear, which the family has named "Agitator." Alas, the faithful washing machine, cut in pieces, did not survive.

All of us have gotten ourselves stuck at times, committing sins which brought painful consequences far greater than any anticipated pleasure. Sin does not liberate; it enslaves (2 Peter 2:19). Try as we might we could not wrench ourselves free. Struggling with the pain, fear, and regret that resulted, we cried out for relief. Longing like Paul to be delivered, we found that Jesus was the only one who could make it happen (Romans 7:24-25).

Say, are you stuck? Do you need a Savior? Don't panic. Because Jesus faced the "jaws of death" in His crucifixion, He can offer you the "jaws of life." The Son can set you free (John 8:31-36). Put your faith in that wonderful news. Confess Jesus as the Christ, the Son of God. Turn from your sinful past. Be baptized, that His blood might make you clean. Live for Him every day. Then go tell someone else who wants to be free.

-- Cory Collins