

Know Your Role

John the Baptist was an amazing man. When you think of him, what words come to mind to describe him? Independent ... effective ... successful ... powerful ... humble ... weird ... active ... unique ... persuasive ... odd ... focused ... rugged ... preacher ... forerunner ... prophet ... baptizer ... bold? Most likely all of these and many more!

Today, as I was reading of John the Baptist (*John 1.35-42*) I noticed a man who knew his role as a servant of God, and a man who was completely content with whatever God called him to do. This role as the forerunner of Jesus was foretold hundreds of years before his birth (*Isaiah 40.3*), and then again just months before he was born (*Luke 1.1-17*). All we know of his early life is that he “grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the desert until he appeared publicly to Israel” (*Luke 1.80*).

When it came time to begin his ministry, John was faithful to God’s calling. His preaching drew all the people from “all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem” to go to the Jordan to be baptized by him (*Mark 1.5*). His two-part message was clear and succinct: he was “preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” and “after me will come one more powerful than I” (*Mark 1.4, 7*). As powerful and effective as John was (multitudes were drawn to repentance and baptism), his success did not deter him from his primary role – to point people to Jesus. The crowds could have derailed him, but they didn’t. When the time came for Jesus to begin his ministry, John pointed his disciples to Jesus: “When he (John) saw Jesus passing by, he said, ‘Look, the Lamb of God’” (*John 1.35*). And then John backed out of the picture. He always knew this time would come (*John 1.7, 20-23, 26-27, 29-31*). John clearly embraced his role as the red carpet for Jesus.

What an incredible example John leaves for us. In our self-focused, success-oriented culture, we are bombarded with the temptations of power, position and prestige. In our world it *does* matter who gets the credit, whose name is at the top, who wins the achievement awards. In our world it doesn’t matter who gets hurt as we climb to the top, as long as it’s not “me.” Our world views roles as measures of importance.

Sadly, this kind of thinking is affecting the church. Even though the Scriptures are clear that in Christ all people are equally important (*Galatians 3.26-28*), and that the Spirit distributes roles for the common good of the body (*Romans 12.3-8*), we are still tempted to rank importance based on function rather than relationship. Instead, we should learn to be content with the role God gives us, whatever it is, and do our best to fulfill that role, whatever that requires. By doing so, God will be glorified and the church will be strengthened.

John the Baptist’s powerful example teaches us: know your role ... and do it.

Joe Chesser
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SPIRITUAL FOOD SOURCES

TV Programs

“In Search of the Lord’s Way” with Phil Sanders at 7:00 a.m. Sundays

“Good News Today” at 7:30 a.m. Sundays

“A Bible Answer” at 8:00 a.m. Sundays

Internet

Capechurchofchrist.org (<https://www.facebook.com/CapeChurchofChrist/>)
Sundays at 10:00 a.m., Sundays at 5:00 p.m. and Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

From Harding University: Collegechurchofchrist.org

(<https://www.facebook.com/CollegeChurchofChrist/>) Sundays at 8 a.m.

CHILDREN’S HOME

The new list of items includes Chocolate Chips, Instant Potatoes, Canned Mushrooms, Powdered Sugar, Snack Crackers and Rotel. The next pick up will be in April.

DIRECTORY INFO

Jennis Benefield has a new 911 address. Please do not use the one that is currently in the directory. The new address is 29324 Bodieville Rd., Thebes, IL 62990. She does still have the same phone number. She is doing well, although in a wheelchair right now until the leg she broke gets stronger and then she is looking into knee replacement for the other leg. Be sure to keep her in your prayers.

NEW CLASS TO BEGIN:

From Barney regarding new virtual class: “I have decided to teach a virtual lesson on how to use the Internet for Bible study. There are so many tools that enhance Bible study in the electronic world that it is like studying the Bible on steroids. The only difference between using the Internet for Bible study and using steroids is that using the Internet is legal.

This course of study will require you to carve out about one hour a week to do your homework. If you are willing to put in the time and wish to pursue this course of study, just email with “count me in” and I will begin building the email distribution list for this new class.”

OVERSIGHT

Vera Campbell-Jones had a birthday on Thursday, February 4th, which I failed to include in last week’s bulletin. Sorry, Vera!

Upcoming Birthdays and Anniversaries	
Feb. 14 – Lyndell Pugh	Feb. 24 – Zoey Bishop
Feb. 22 – Jim Ferretti	

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

FROM WORLD CHRISTIAN BROADCASTING:

OUR MWV TEAM IN MADAGASCAR WISHES YOU AND YOURS THE BEST IN 2021!

Pray for our station there as they fix the repairs from Cyclone Eloise that hit that area this week. The antennas are fine and today we are back on the air from Madagascar. Pray for this team as they also repair damage at their personal homes.

<u>OUR MEMBERS</u>	<u>FAMILY & FRIENDS</u>	<u>WEEKLY REPORT</u>
Jennis Benefield Helen Coburn Joan England (Life Care Ctr) David Mattingly (rm 308 Life Care Ctr) Mark McAllister (glioblastoma) Pat Smart (stroke/fall) Betty Tanner (shut-in) Richard & Jane Volkerding (shut-in)	Betty Allen (hospice) Donna Barnes (cancer) Tom & Mary Bollman Michele Campbell (back) Liam Clark Angie Northern Fabing Scott Hartline Karen Hubbs (brain cancer) Chris Hutson Sam’s sister, Emma (covid) Suzanne Meert (cancer) Kevin Plemons (brain tumor) Henry Sessoms (COVID) Barry Tate (stroke) Scott Taylor (cancer) Donna Thieman (cancer) Tony Wells	Sunday a.m. Worship: 56 Contributions: \$2,185.09 Budget: \$3,059.12 Family First: \$0 Please remember to leave your contribution in the tray on the table at the back of the auditorium.