



# SENIOR SAINTS NEWS

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2011

## Coming Events

Program for February 15, 2011 Tuesday - Parables in Pastel, a Unique Ministry to the Church Family by Gary & Marty Means, Baden, PA.

## “Angels on Call”

Eva Blois’ brother lived next door to an Emergency Room Doctor for many years. The Doctor always stated he was going to write a book about his ER experiences. I spied the book on their coffee table and could not put it down. This is not intended to be a book report, but rather a sharing of some of the love and caring between the Doctor, the staff, the patients and family members. The book title is “Angels on Call” by Robert D. Lesslie, M.D.

The book recounts forty true stories about various patient visits to the ER where Christian love and professional care was shown by the doctor and the entire staff.

He begins chapters with a Bible verse or other quote, and usually sums up the chapter with another fitting quote. I will give a few samples of the chapters but not give details that would spoil the book if you should decide to read it. The author gives lessons in life and communicates how important Christian love is in caring for his patients.

Chapter, *Dogged Perseverance* “It ain’t what you know that gets you into trouble. It’s what you know for sure that just ain’t so.” (Mark Twain) The chapter is about conscientious first aid workers who would not quit their care (in this case their CPR) until the doctor was able to convince them that he had the eighty year-old patient under control. In this case the patient never needed CPR; he had only fallen. “The difference between perseverance and obstinacy is that one comes from a strong will and the other from a strong won’t.” (Henry Ward Beecher 1813-1887)

Chapter, *All That Glitters ...* “Judgment comes from experience, and great judgment comes from bad experience.” (An Old Uttered Saying) A patient comes into ER with bizarre, weird symptoms never seen before by the ER. Some of the staff thought this might be a hoax. With careful observation, the doctor realized the symptoms could not be intentionally done and through diligent questioning, he was able to quickly cure the patient. He closed the chapter with Proverbs 19:2 “It is not good to have zeal without knowledge, nor to be hasty and miss the way.”

Chapter, *Choose Life*. “Light is sweet, and it pleases the eyes to see the sun. However many years a man may live, let him enjoy them all. But let him remember the days of darkness, for they will be many.” Ecclesiastes 11:7-8 The chapter tells of a teenage girl who is enduring several years with a terminal illness, but mentally, she just will not give up. She has a great love of life and, in spite of all, keeps a very positive attitude.

Chapter, *Just Make It Go Away*. Some illnesses and accidents happen and the results are permanent and medical care cannot correct or change the result. “Going a little farther, He fell with His face to the ground and prayed, ‘My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from Me.’” Matthew 26:39 “Do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Isaiah 41:10.

Chapter, *Dancin’ in Heaven*. (This chapter will surely bring tears.) “Earth has no sorrow that

heaven cannot heal.” (Thomas Moore 1779-1852) The story in this chapter is about a young man who was injured at birth. Cerebral palsy is the technical name for his condition. His body was terribly deformed and he totally lacked muscular coordination and was unable to speak in a way that anyone could understand him. His brain, hearing, and sight were perfectly normal. His attitude toward life was remarkable, as was his caring for his nursing home caregivers. Upon leaving ER after numerous visits, a nursing home person said- “Danny is trapped in that body and in his wheelchair, someday he will be dancing; Dancing with the Lord.” Revelation 21:5 “Behold, I make everything new.”

## Meet Bob Edwards

Bob Edwards, Chairman of the Senior Saints Small Group wants to introduce himself to the Group. His autobiography follows:

I was born of very humble parentage in Cushing, Oklahoma, on August 4, 1926. My father and mother were divorced before I became aware of the circumstances; therefore, the only father I knew was my stepfather. Allen Edwards was a partially-disabled veteran of WWI, and consequently unable to provide more than a bare living. He had been subjected to mustard gas in the Argonne Forest of France. He was employed in the dry cleaning business most of his life, although he and his brother did own two different dry cleaning businesses for a short time each.

When the depression came in 1929 most of the family lost their employment, including my Dad. Grandfather owned a home in Cushing and was able to trade it for a 160-acre unimproved piece of land with an old three-room house. Grandparents with two teenagers, my parents and I moved to the farm. As only forty acres were cleared for farming, the major effort was to clear enough land to cultivate crops to feed the family. As young as I was, I appreciated the generosity of the established farmers in the area who loaned to gave us horses, implements and food to last thru the winter. My parents and I spent the winter in a converted chicken house with a dirt floor and with an egg incubator for heat while Grandpa and the boys built another three-room house on the farm to house the grandparents.

As much as every hand was required to clear land, little Robert (me) was just in the way. As one of the neighbors was superintendent of the local one-room school, he suggested that since Mom had taught me to read and write at the elementary level, I should be sent to school with my uncle and aunt. The teacher decided that I had learned all that the first graders were expected to know and therefore put me in the second grade. This accounts for my graduating from high school and having one semester of college before my sixteenth birthday. It certainly was not my superior academic acumen.

During the Commencement Exercise of my Cushing High School class, I was so moved by the address of the Methodist minister that I informed the Chairman of the Board of Deacons of my Disciples of Christ Church (also known in the Midwest as the Christian Church) that I wanted to attend the denomination’s Bible college at Enid, Oklahoma. I consider it a mistake to this day, but the Deacons decided to ordain me into the ministry without further testing or evaluation (a practice most reformed churches do not follow). After three semesters at Phillips University, I determined that my 4-D draft classification, which exempted me from the draft, was improper and I volunteered for the draft. I was drafted on December 7, 1943: Pearl Harbor Day you will recall.

After basic training at Camp Joseph T. Robinson near Little Rock, Arkansas, I was selected to attend Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, to become a “90 day wonder”. I graduated from OCS in April of 1946. The war ended in May of ’45, so I was sent to the occupation Army in Germany where I served three years as an MP and Infantry platoon leader.

It was while in my second year in Germany that I took a leave and went to Nice, France. There I met a cute little WAC Sergeant named Dorothy Clay Johnston who was on leave from Air Corps Headquarters in Wiesbaden. It was love at first sight and we were engaged while still in Nice. We were married as soon as the Army approved the paperwork for an officer to marry an enlisted woman.

To skip the details, I commanded an Infantry Company in the Korean War and another company in Okinawa where our daughter, Michelle, whom you probably know, was born.

I have spent a lot of my career either teaching or attending military schools. I taught at the Infantry School, The Signal School, The Quartermaster School, the Constabulary School and finally I was Director of a Department in the Command and General Staff College. Subsequently, I studied for an Education Degree and received a degree at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Nebraska, in 1967. During my thirty years service I served ten years overseas, three of which were unaccompanied by my family. My most interesting duty was as the Intelligence Officer on the Army forces in Berlin while the Wall was still in place. I retired in the grade of Colonel in 1974.

Being completely bored with civilian life and the lack of excitement, I decided to attend Law College. I graduated from an Atlanta law school in 1979 and took up the practice of law that year. I led a small firm in general practice in Douglasville, GA, until January 1998, at which time I flat quit working.

I was raised in a Reformed Church (Disciples of Christ) was very active in the affairs of Protestant Men of the Chapel most of my military life, and taught some church school classes when I stayed in one place long enough to become acquainted.

After my retirement I became a Ruling Elder in a Presbyterian Church (USA) in Douglasville, GA. I served as Clerk of Session for about a third of my 35 years in that church. My main activities, other than Clerk, were chairing the Stewardship Committee, the Worship and Order Committee and teaching adult classes. When Michelle and I joined that church in 1973, I was number 120 on the active roll. When we left Douglasville, the membership exceeded 1,000. It was known as "The Miracle of Douglasville". This was largely due to a program called "Lifestyle Stewardship". My chief interest is in teaching Reformed Doctrine and Theology. I became a devotee of R.C. Sproul and those with whom he travels, such as J.I. Packer, the former James M. Boice, Ravi Zacharias, et al. Then I really got hooked in 1989 when I attended Ligonier National Conference in Orlando. I have missed only two conferences since then.

My wife of 56 years expired of congestive heart failure in 2003. My daughter, Michelle, had moved with her husband, Gene, to Jacksonville in 2002. She began to insist that I move close to her, so I moved to a Julington Creek subdivision in St. Johns County. We joined the Mandarin Presbyterian Church and served there until we determined that it was not sufficiently Reformed for our background. After visiting several other churches we began to attend Christ Church. When Rev. Werson heard that we were moving to this area, he was kind enough to recommend that we investigate Pinewood. At first sight I knew this was to be home. What was so convincing? The sight of the school. If there is anything I truly believe in, it is the proper and early Christian education of our children.

I (we) love it here and are enjoying the fellowship, the preaching, the teaching and the general atmosphere of this God-inspired place.

Soli Deo Gloria, Bob Edwards



February

- 1 Trisha Taylor
- 2 Emily Williams
- 4 Dave Scheff
- 5 JoAnne Zammit
- 6 Dee Lansford
- 6 Janice Findlay
- 8 Ginger Hensahw
- 9 Duane Steiner
- 9 Sara Spurrier
- 10 Ted Biggs
- 11 Marva Lou Widhalm
- 14 John Calhoun
- 15 Maryan Calhoun
- 16 Bonnie Gandee (New Sr St!)
- 18 Gayle Morris
- 20 Carolyn Steiner
- 21 John Winters
- 22 Nancy Harris
- 24 Nadine Anderson
- 24 Rita Harper
- 24 Jane Beth Green
- 25 David Bland
- 28 Jean Leach



March

- 3 Bonnie Diamond
- 5 Jane Nyborg
- 5 Larry Lusk
- 6 Virginia Rankin
- 6 Bonnie Nardi
- 7 Jean Gilman
- 8 Nancy Bright
- 8 Sharon Burns
- 11 Sue Bybee
- 11 Carl Jackson
- 14 Wayne Long
- 14 Starling Kramer
- 14 Mark Davis
- 18 Ellie Bland
- 18 Kate Smith
- 18 Shirley Pettey
- 23 Marsha Elmore
- 24 Wanda Burcham
- 27 Randy Warren